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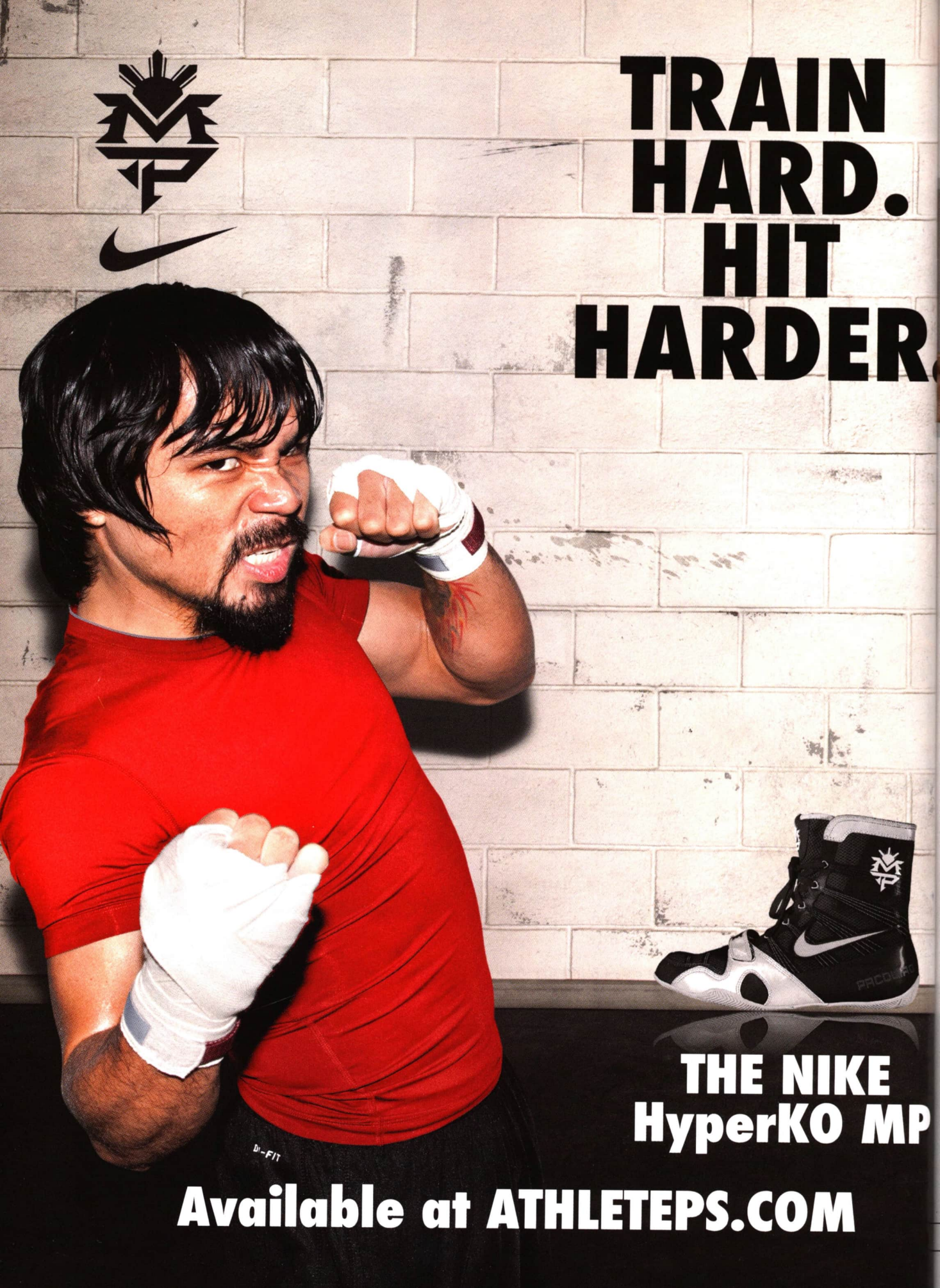
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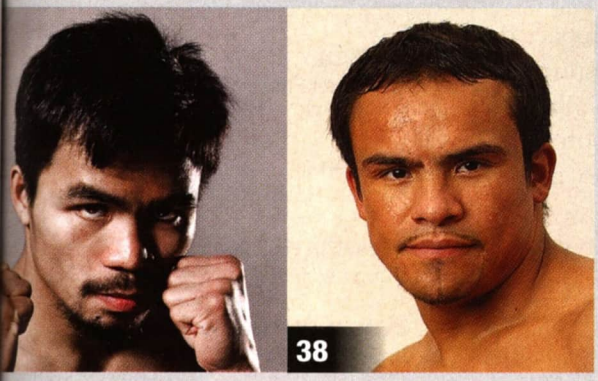

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Image: Al Bello-Getty

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NICE CONSOLATION PRIZE

By **Michael Rosenthal**

I think I speak for a lot of fans when I say that Juan Manuel Marquez wasn't our first choice for Manny Pacquiao's opponent on Dec. 8.

Of course, No. 1 would be Floyd Mayweather Jr. That fight remains closer to fantasy than reality, though. The best real-world option probably was a rematch with Timothy Bradley, who wanted to fight Pacquiao again but was passed over for business reasons: His fan base is smaller than Marquez's.

That said, Pacquiao-Marquez IV is more than a nice consolation prize.

Pacquiao was criticized in some circles (including this one) for avoiding challenges the past few years. Marquez certainly is a challenge. And we constantly demand – often in vain – that the best fight the best; well, that's what this is.

The fact this is their fourth meeting somehow seems to be overkill, in part because little was accomplished in the first three. Another inconclusive or controversial result would probably make us wish it never happened.

However, that notion isn't lost on Pacquiao and Marquez, both of whom have great motivation to find a way to win decisively. That could produce drama we haven't seen in I, II and III.

And the stakes are very high for Pacquiao in general. Some have suggested that he's in significant decline, that he's slowing down. He needs to demonstrate otherwise to prove he remains on top of the sport. In fact, a loss conceivably could end his career.

Marquez already has lost twice to Pacquiao; a third setback probably wouldn't have significant impact on his legacy or marketability even at 39. The man has pride, though. He's convinced he was ripped off three times; he wants justice. So do his fans, who remain angry.

Thus, we have two great fighters who are hungry to claim a decisive victory in one of the most evenly matched series in history. That's compelling.

And, finally, we must enjoy Pacquiao and Marquez while we still can.

Pacquiao, who turns 34 on Dec. 17, has been among the most-celebrated fighters on the planet since he stunned Lehlo Ledwaba on the Oscar De La Hoya-Javier Castillejo undercard in 2001 in Las Vegas.

No one will forget his battles with the Mexican legends – Erik Morales, Marco Antonio Barrera and Marquez – or victories over De La Hoya, Ricky Hatton and others that had people comparing him to Henry Armstrong.

We always hope that the great ones have one more memorable performance in them. Could that come on Dec. 8?

And we must admire Marquez, who evolved from a relative technician to a thrilling brawler late in his career and, in spite of that, outlasted his more-heralded countrymen. We ask the same question of him: Does he have one more great performance in him?

Only one thing is certain: Neither fighter will have many more opportunities.

The RING

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One of the few blows Nonito Donaire absorbed against Toshiaki Nishioka was this accidental collision of heads. Otherwise, it was all Donaire. The Filipino-American put Nishioka down twice en route to a ninth-round KO on Oct. 13 in Carson, Calif.
Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

Brandon Rios (left) and Mike Alvarado exchanged punishing blows at a furious pace in a memorable brawl before Rios scored a spectacular knockout in the seventh round on the Nonito Donaire-Toshiaki Nishioka card on Oct. 13. Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

Ricky Burns celebrates his fourth-round knockout of Kevin Mitchell on Sept. 22 in Scotland, the most-important victory in the rising lightweight's career.
Image: **Scott Heavey-Getty Images**

KLITSCHKOS vs. LEGENDS

Wow, what a great and timely article on Wladimir Klitschko vs. the heavyweight legends (December 2012 issue of THE RING). I don't necessarily agree with your assessment but it makes for good reading. Wladimir and Vitali are dominating fighters at 6-foot-7, 245 pounds. I don't care what Teddy Atlas thinks; these two would have been too much for all but a handful of champions in heavyweight history. Joe Frazier would have given up 40 pounds and 8 inches in height against Wladimir. No way he beats Wladimir. He was floored twice by Oscar Bonavena and fought a grueling 15-round decision with him the second time they fought. And I love Joe Louis but Klitschko would have picked him apart with a tremendous reach advantage. Louis could not outbox the Klitschkos. Larry Holmes and Mike Tyson would have had a more realistic chance of winning but I still have to side with the size and defensive advantages of Wladimir. George Foreman's ability to take a punch would definitely be a big advantage for Big George, along with his outstanding power. I would give Lennox Lewis and Sonny Liston a slight advantage because of their boxing ability combined with power. Muhammad Ali, of course, was just too fast for any heavyweight. Your article brought back so many great memories from the good old days.

Mark McKee
Richardson, Texas

5 HEAVY SCENARIOS

I am told by casual American fight fans that they lost interest in boxing because of the decline of the heavyweight division and its domination by the brothers Klitschko. This probably will continue until Wladimir decides there isn't much more for him to accomplish and retires. His combination of size, skill, style and experience is just too much for other current heavyweights to overcome.

I would rather the contenders fight each other instead of the Klitschkos. Here are five fights I would like to see:

1. Tomasz Adamek vs. David Haye. This fight would generate heavy media buzz and be guaranteed to provide fireworks and potentially be a Fight of the Year. The former lineal cruiserweight champs are similar in size and possess knockout power. 2. Alexander Povetkin vs. Denis Boytsov. 3. Chris Arreola vs. Odlanier Solis. 4. Kubrat Pulev vs. Marco Huck. 5. Robert Helenius vs. David Price.

The winners could then face each other, which will help one or more of them to mature into fighters who might one day give Wladimir Klitschko some competition.

Jacob Bernier
Santa Cruz, Calif.

FIGHTER OF MONTH?

I wanted to write to you in hopes that you would consider putting boxing accomplishments aside for one month and nominate Orlando Cruz for fighter of the month. I am not at all familiar with Mr. Cruz as a fighter but, by his announcement of living his life as a "Proud Gay Man," I think we all have an insight into his character. Boxing has always been for me the most honest of sports. Its combatants risk the most by showing their greatest vulnerabilities every time they enter the ring. Orlando Cruz has chosen to do that outside the ring as well, and for that I applauded him heartily.

Jason Donaher
Calgary, Canada

Editor's note: We seriously considered your suggestion. However, we decided that publishing your eloquent letter was the perfect way to honor Cruz's courageous announcement.

PATTERSON NOT GREAT?

At the conclusion of Thomas Hauser's review of the Floyd Patterson biography, Floyd Patterson: The Fighting Life of Boxing's Invisible Champion, by W.K. Stratton (November 2012 issue of THE RING), Hauser writes that "Floyd Patterson was a good fighter – not a great one – who came along at the right time." While I agree that Patterson was not one of the great heavyweight champions, he was most emphatically a great fighter. He, like Ezzard Charles, was a small heavyweight who probably would have stayed in the light heavyweight division if he could have made the same money. As a light heavyweight, he, again like Charles, would be rated an all-time great.

Richard Haglund
Mound City, Kan.

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HIGH TIME FOR REMATCH?

By: **David Greisman**

Let's not kid ourselves here about Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. and his testing positive for weed. The only way that it could be a performance-enhancing drug is if his marijuana munchies are how he gains so many pounds between the weigh-in and fight night.

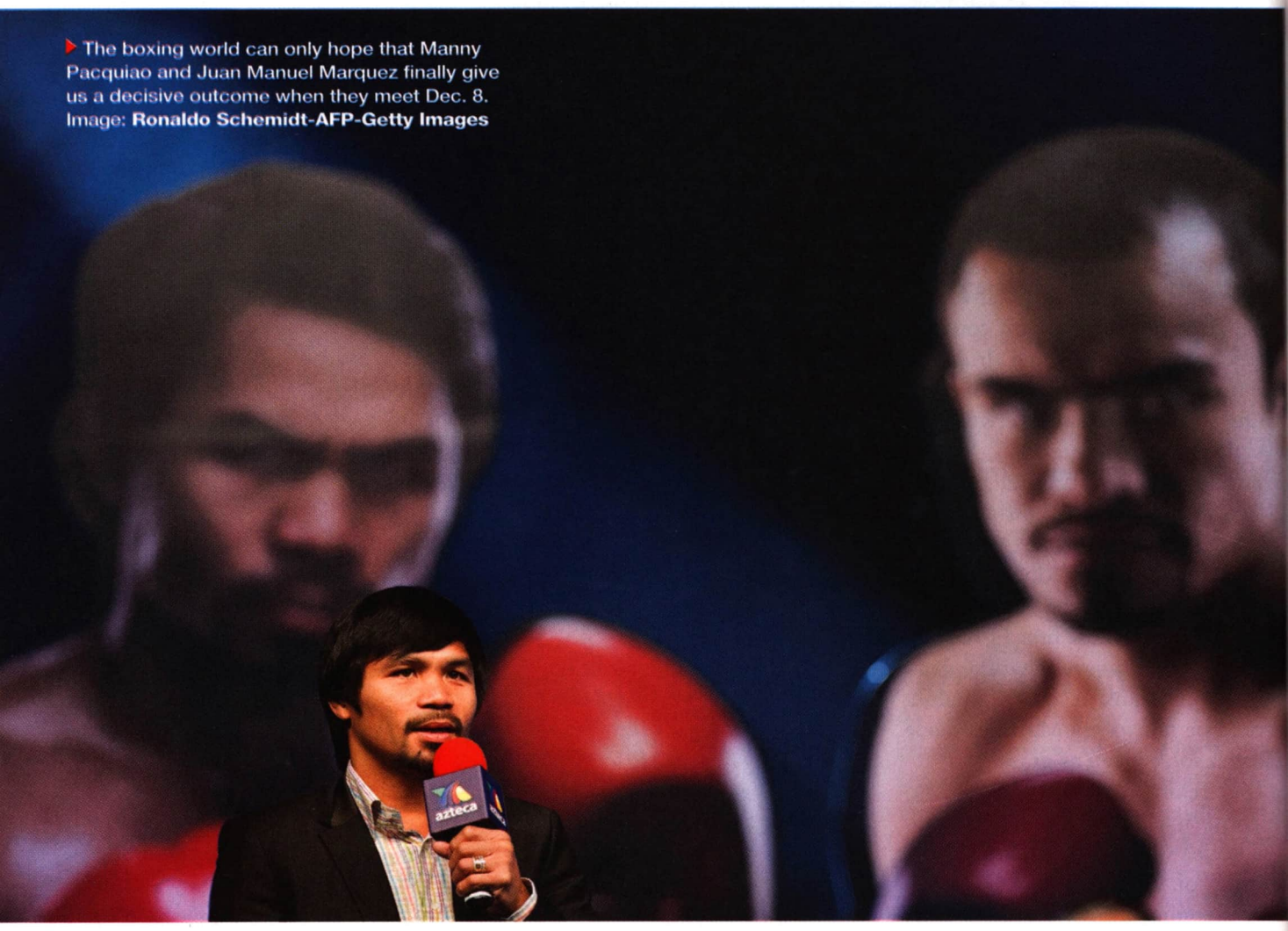
Either that or the drug calmed him down for the biggest fight of his career against the toughest opponent in the middleweight division. That might explain why he fought as he did for most of those first 11 rounds. It's doubtful, however, that the dank made him stank it out, though it would be fair to say Martinez made Chavez look green as grass.

But really, it should come as no surprise if Chavez actually took to the toke, went to the joint before the jab or sidled up to a bong before stepping into the boxing ring. As we saw on HBO's "24/7" series, he slept all day, was often late for his appointments and was seemingly always seen with a bowl of cereal in hand.

Barring whatever longterm suspension Chavez might get from the Nevada State Athletic Commission, this revelation will only work out to his benefit when it comes to marketing a potential second fight with the champ. He and Martinez have unfinished business. Not only did Chavez come from behind and nearly knock Martinez out in the final round, but he can also claim that he did so while high. This time, he can swear that he'll be sober — and promise that the knockout will come sooner.

Talk about planting seeds for a rematch …

The fact Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. tested positive for marijuana after his loss to Sergio Martinez only makes us wonder what he might've accomplished had he conducted himself properly in preparation for the fight.
Image: **Jeff Bottari-Getty Images**



The boxing world can only hope that Manny Pacquiao and Juan Manuel Marquez finally give us a decisive outcome when they meet Dec. 8. Image: **Ronaldo Schemidt-AFP-Getty Images**

KNOCKOUT NEEDED

If Manny Pacquiao vs. Juan Manuel Marquez IV doesn't end cleanly and decisively, we riot.

That is the way we must feel after being asked to pay once again for this rivalry without a resolution. Often such circumstances would whet our collective appetite for future installments. Not anymore. That appetite has been ruined by the bad taste left in our mouths by the ending of Pacquiao-Marquez III, with Marquez appearing to get the better of Pacquiao yet leaving with nothing to hang his sombrero on — well, except for his genitals during a post-fight interview conducted in the nude and in his dressing room with Max Kellerman.

Our stomachs turned further with the dubious scoring that ended Pacquiao's bout with Timothy Bradley and ended Pacquiao's run atop the sport. While it wasn't Manny's fault that the judges gave him a win over Marquez that didn't seem right, and then gave Bradley a win over him that seemed just as wrong, those outrages weren't even the most outrageous decisions.

Instead, there was the fact that a Pacquiao-Marquez redux was only one of three redos we could've ended up with, and that those three fights were the only bouts being spoken of for Pacquiao's next appearance. The other two possibilities mentioned were rematches with Bradley and Miguel Cotto. All of this would be fine if there were any desire for sequels.

Pacquiao-Marquez III didn't have the type of fireworks or momentum swings as did their first two battles. Pacquiao-Bradley ended controversially because Pacquiao failed to end things decisively. Cotto-Pacquiao was competitive at the beginning, but the way Pacquiao took over down the stretch left no compelling reason for a rematch beyond revenge.

This isn't Hollywood, where a lack of creativity can be excused because familiarity sells — which is why this is a year with more Batman, Bond and Bourne, and with remakes taking place in Oz and Middle Earth.

Ricky Hatton was giving brother Matthew Hatton instructions from ringside when the latter fought Kell Brook on March 17 but he sure looked itchy to throw some punches himself.
Image: **Scott Heavey-Getty Images**

Then again, with boxing, it isn't necessarily the idea of unfinished business that matters so much as the prospect of business. It doesn't matter if Pacquiao-Marquez III wasn't a barnburner so long as the fourth fight can still be a blockbuster. The Vegas casinos will still fill arenas for big-time boxing. And we boxing diehards will still shell out for the pay-per-view.

We still want better. We want a bout's conclusion to be conclusive. It's refreshing to hear Pacquiao and Marquez speak of approaching this fourth and presumably final installment with that same mindset. Their first two fights were controversial but thrilling. The third was controversial yet unfulfilling. The fourth is being forced upon us, and for this one we want an ending that has us buzzing rather than bickering.

All will be OK if Pacquiao-Marquez IV ends with a KO.

DECODED

Meanwhile, Pacquiao's promoter, Bob Arum, was quoted two months before the bout as saying that Pacquiao's next fight could be on April 20.

4/20? Shouldn't that date be reserved for Chavez Jr.?

WELCOME BACK

There's always going to be only one Ricky Hatton. There's never going to be just one retirement for most major fighters.

No boxer wants to go out on a loss, never mind a defeat in which he is demolished in less than two rounds and knocked out cold in front of millions and in a highlight that is then played on screens again and again. Yet it seemed fitting that Hatton would stop fighting post-Pacquiao; he'd already reached his zenith, and now he'd reached his limit.

Yet his comeback doesn't seem as bad as those embarked on by many of his pugilistic peers. His only losses have come against two of the best fighters of this era. If he wants to return and remain with opponents at a lower level than those, and if he can regain enough of his ability to stay competitive with them, then that's his prerogative.

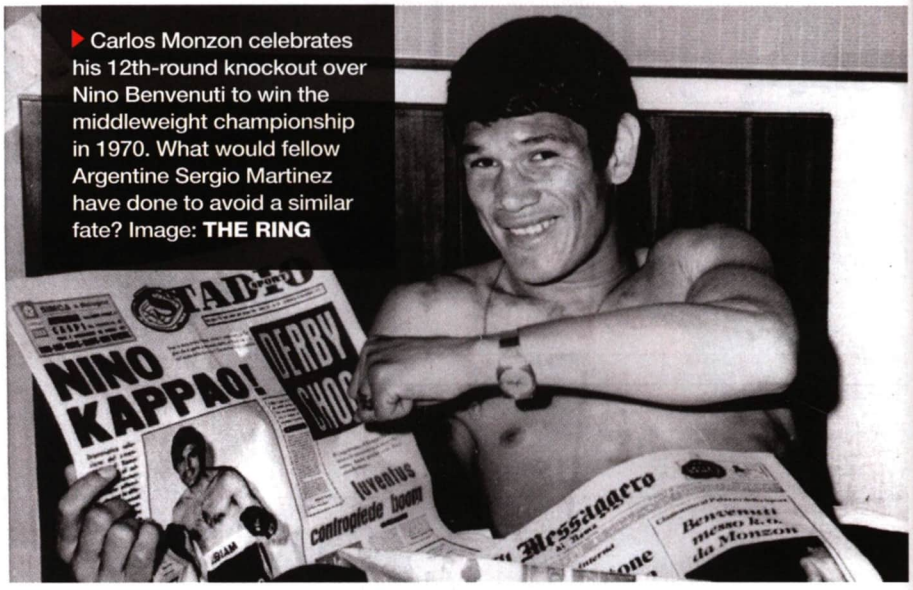
These returns, or refusals to retire, are only shameful when they are potentially harmful. This isn't Hasim Rahman going from "Rock" to rocked. And it definitely isn't Roy Jones Jr. going from "Y'all must've forgot" to "We can't remember the last time you won a big fight." ■

SHOTGUN VS. MARVEL

Most experts put Carlos Monzon on their short list when asked to name the greatest middleweights of all time. Monzon won fifteen world championship fights and was undefeated in his last 71 outings.

So how would current middleweight champion Sergio Martinez fight his fellow Argentine if he could travel back in time?

"Very carefully," Martinez answers. "Monzon was a very smart fighter. He controlled distance well and seemed always to get stronger as the fight went on. I'd train and strategize for a twelve-round fight, or fifteen rounds if we fought by those rules. I could make no mistakes. I would be in danger the whole time. I would never make a direct attack, never stand in front of him, and never be still when I was within striking distance of his punches. I would be thinking always more about defense than attacking. My attack, when it came, would be all about speed and angles. And there would be no head hunting. Most of my attack would be to his body. For sure, it would be my hardest fight ever."



Carlos Monzon celebrates his 12th-round knockout over Nino Benvenuti to win the middleweight championship in 1970. What would fellow Argentine Sergio Martinez have done to avoid a similar fate? Image: **THE RING**

READERS AND WRITERS TAKE NOTE

Most publishers won't touch boxing books "because they don't sell." McFarland & Company has twenty-two boxing books in print and more on the way.

McFarland is located in Jefferson, N.C., a small Appalachian town in the northwest corner of the state. It currently publishes almost four hundred titles a year with an emphasis on sales to libraries.

Senior acquisitions editor Gary Mitchem says, "The boxing line caught us by surprise. Five or so years ago, we saw a rise in the number of over-the-transom boxing proposals.A few of them looked quite good, so we gave them a try. To our mild surprise, there was a market for them. We tried a few more, which also did well. In the years since, the line has grown enough that we receive a steady flow of unsolicited submissions, which we add to sometimes by reaching out to authors."

Mitchem says that McFarland's boxing titles are characterized by "thorough documentation and deep research."

That's certainly true of some titles. McFarland published John L. Sullivan by Adam Pollack, the first in a line of excellent books by the author about boxing's gloved heavyweight champions. Two more McFarland titles – James J. Corbett by Armond Fields and Ray Arcel by Donald Dewey – are also deserving of special praise.

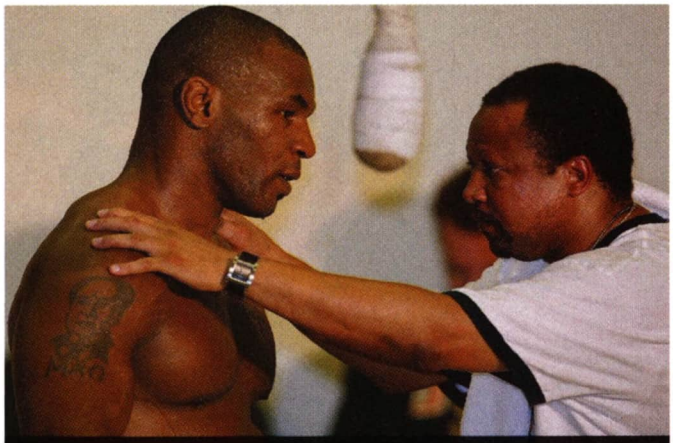
But the research and writing are uneven from book to book. Some of McFarland's titles are eye-openers. Reading others causes the eyes to glaze over.

McFarland does not pay advances to authors for boxing books. But it does pay a royalty on each book sold. Mitchem elaborates on the acquisitions process, saying, "As with books on most other topics, we like to see a full proposal, which includes two or more sample chapters, a briefly annotated table of contents, an overview or introduction, a projected word count, and brief discussion of the plans for illustrations. Most boxing projects are then reviewed and discussed by the editorial staff, who jointly decide whether to pursue the project."

More information is available at www.mcfarlandbooks.com.

GREATEST MOMENT IN SPORTS ... OUTSIDE OF BOXING

RONNIE SHIELDS



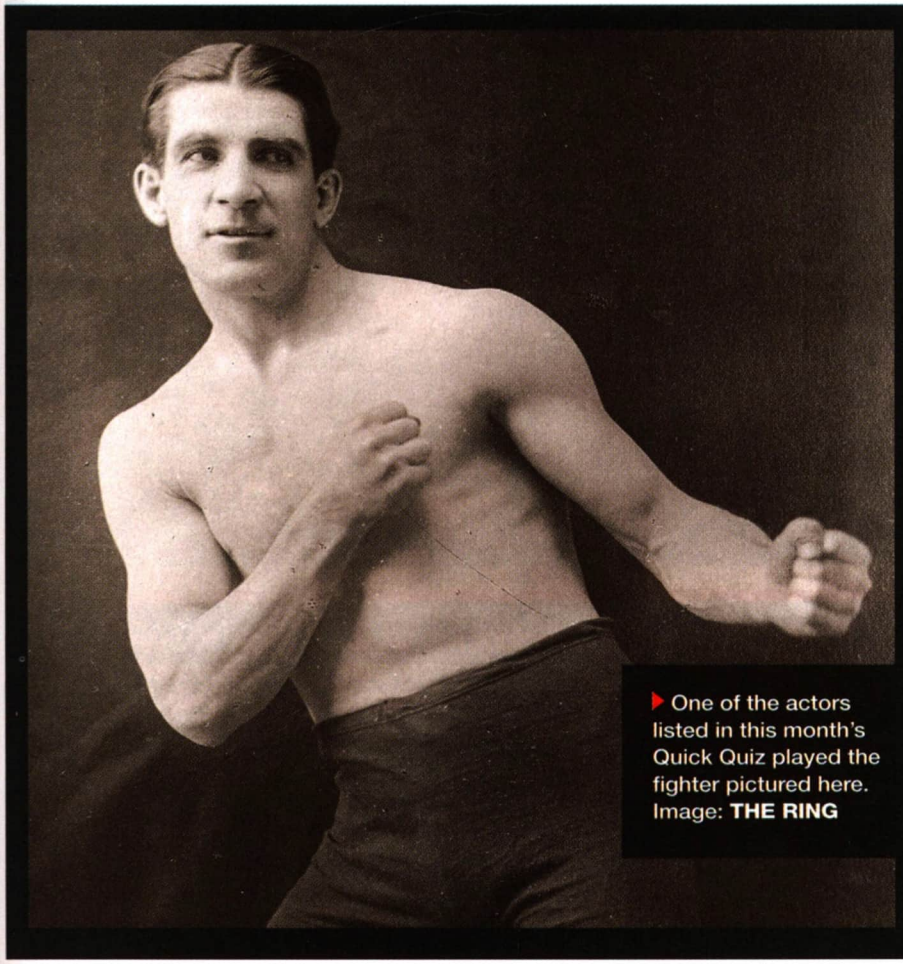
Trainer Ronnie Shields (right) is used to working with big boys. However, his greatest moment in sports outside boxing involved coaching little ones in baseball.
Image: **Mike Nelson-AFP-Getty Images**

"Back in 1992, I coached my oldest son's Little League baseball team. The kids were 11 and 12 years old. The first thing I did was take them to the gym and teach them a little about boxing. That way, I got to know them and they got some confidence in themselves.

"My son – his name is Winston – played third base and shortstop and batted sixth or seventh in the lineup. The team had white uniforms with black trim. When Winston first got his uniform, he wouldn't take it off. That's how much it meant to him.

"We lost our first few games, but I could see the team was getting better. I told them, 'Don't get down. Do your best. Come back and win the next one.'

"Then everybody started hitting and we went on a winning streak. The first game we won, the kids were jumping up and down like they'd just won the World Series. I took them all out for pizza afterwards. That was such a great moment. It felt so good, the way the kids came together as a team and turned things around. I was so proud and happy for them."



One of the actors listed in this month's Quick Quiz played the fighter pictured here.
Image: **THE RING**

QUICK QUIZ

EACH OF THE FOLLOWING ACTORS PLAYED A REAL-LIFE FIGHTER ON FILM. NAME THE FIGHTERS THAT THESE ACTORS PORTRAYED:

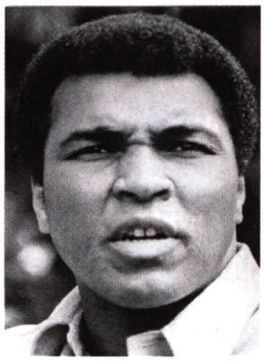
1. RUSSELL CROWE
2. ROBERT DENIRO
3. ERROL FLYNN
4. JAMES EARL JONES
5. PAUL NEWMAN
6. WILL SMITH
7. MARK WAHLBERG
8. COLEY WALLACE
9. DENZEL WASHINGTON
10. TREAT WILLIAMS

Queen Elizabeth II and Olympic gold medalist Luke Campbell (with fellow boxer Freddie Evans) discuss the finer points of the sweet science at a recent reception for Great Britain's medal winners. Image: **John Stillwell-WPA Pool-Getty Images**

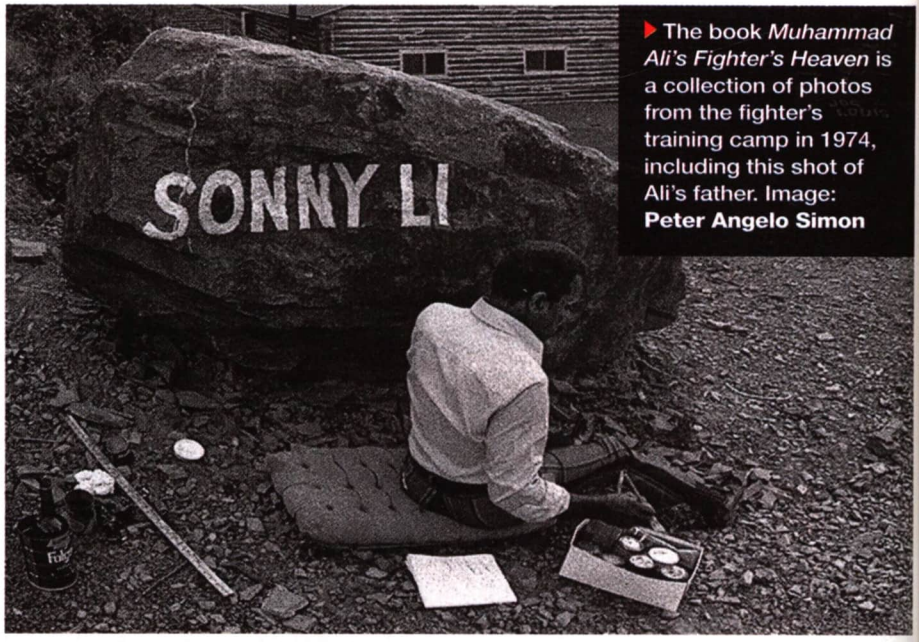
NEW MUHAMMAD ALI BOOK OF PHOTOS

It's hard to find something new on Muhammad Ali. But a new book of photographs does just that.

Muhammad Ali's Fighter's Heaven is a nicely designed collection of photos taken in 1974 by Peter Angelo Simon at Ali's training camp in Deer Lake, Pennsylvania.



The camp's most noticeable physical characteristic was a series of boulders with the names of former champions painted on them. Nature didn't make the boulders that way. Ali's father, Cassius Marcellus Clay Sr, did (right).



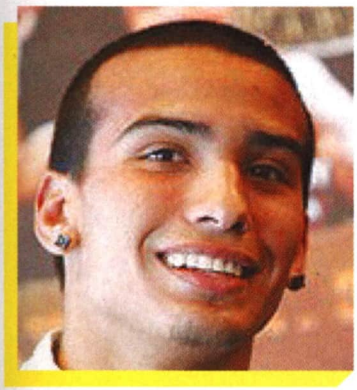
The book *Muhammad Ali's Fighter's Heaven* is a collection of photos from the fighter's training camp in 1974, including this shot of Ali's father. Image: **Peter Angelo Simon**

QUIZ ANSWERS: **1. JAMES BRADDOCK; 2. JAKE LAMOTTA; 3. JAMES CORBETT; 4. JACK JOHNSON; 5. ROCKY GRAZIANO; 6. MUHAMMAD ALI; 7. MICKY WARD; 8. JOE LOUIS; 9. RUBEN CARTER; 10. JACK DEMPSEY.**

Thomas Hauser can be reached by email at thauser@rcn.com. His most recent book — *And the New ...: An Inside Look at Another Year in Boxing*was published by the University of Arkansas Press.

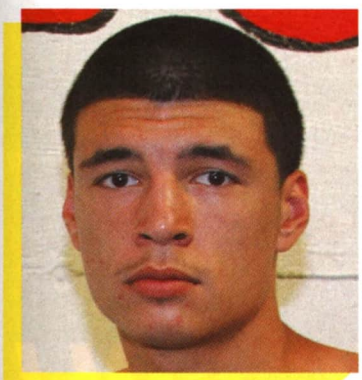
FIGHTERS' FAVORITES

WHAT BOXERS ARE INTO OUTSIDE THE SPORT



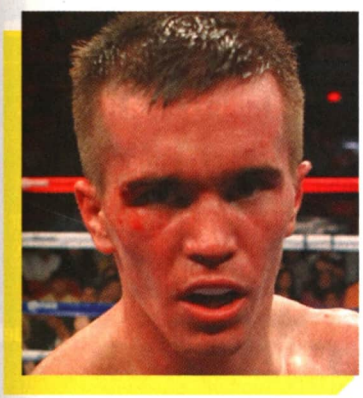
JERRY BELMONTES

MUSIC: Drake.
CAR: I have plans to buy the new 2013 Ford Mustang.
FOOD: Pizza (Pizza Hut).
TATTOOS: 10 tattoos (more coming ...). I have a portrait of my son's face on my chest, a scripture about my late daughter and the saying "Boxing is NOT a sport ... It's my LIFE."
ATHLETE (OUTSIDE OF BOXING): Derrick Rose.
MOVIE: *The Town.*
VIDEO GAME: All the NCAA football games.



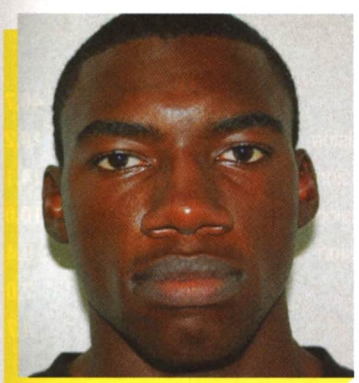
DUSTY HARRISON

MUSIC: Shy Glizzy.
CAR: 2002 Impala.
FOOD: Mom's home Puerto Rico dishes.
TATTOOS: Both arms, chest full of tattoos. Women, mom's name (Lynda), D.C. flag, roses, Holy Cross, world in hands, "Blessed" written on chest with clouds, several birds, bible scripture.
ATHLETE (OUTSIDE BOXING): Kevin Durant. My favorite sport besides boxing is basketball. I play every day.
VIDEO GAME: Don't play video games.



JAMIE KAVANAGH

MUSIC: Plan B, favorite type of music is old-school dance.
CAR: Favorite car right now is the new Mercedes SLS. Current car I have is a Ford Edge.
FOOD: Sushi or lamb chops.
TATTOOS: No tattoos. I like them on other people but wouldn't on my own skin unless it's something impermanent.
ATHLETE (OUTSIDE OF BOXING): Usain Bolt.
MOVIE: I'm a big movie guy so I don't have one, but I like the oldies like *Goodfellas.*
VIDEO GAME: *God of War*, the whole series.



JULIUS JACKSON

MUSIC: LaCrae, gospel hip hop. 116 Clique is my favorite group.
CAR: Ford F150 Lightning.
FOOD: Now, I am a chef, so I know a lot about food, but my favorite cuisine is Italian.
TATTOOS: No tattoos.
ATHLETE (OUTSIDE OF BOXING): Kevin Durant.
MOVIE: Jet Li — *The One.*
VIDEO GAME: *Rage.*

Jackson photo courtesy Virgin Islands Daily News

GOOD, BAD, WORSE

THE BEST AND WORST IN BOXING FROM THE PAST MONTH

By: **Michael Rosenthal**

GOOD

No sport is more macho than boxing. That's why Orlando Cruz had to brace for the worst after he became the first boxer to openly acknowledge he is gay. He needn't have worried. Aside from a handful of Neanderthals, boxing fans seemed to be supportive of the 31-year-old featherweight from Puerto Rico. We've obviously come a long way when it comes to tolerance of those who might be different. And I think it's important to note that fellow Puerto Rican Miguel Cotto expressed wholehearted support for his former amateur teammate, which had to resonate back home. Congratulations to Cruz for his courage, to Cotto for his encouragement and to the fans for their tolerance. Because of them, this episode barely caused a ripple. And that's the way it should be.

BAD

I breathed a sigh of relief when I heard that Evander Holyfield had finally decided to retire at 50. The man turned pro 28 years ago, for God's sake. I had the same reaction when 43-year-old Glen Johnson decided to call it quits. One of the nicest people in boxing had accomplished enough. So what happens? They both have second thoughts and say in post-announcement announcements that they will fight again. Argh! I've written many times that boxers have the right to fight as long as they can defend themselves. Still, I cringe when I think of fighters like Holyfield and Johnson – who have provided fans with so many thrills over the years – taking more punishment than necessary. We can only hope that they come to the same conclusion sooner rather than later.

WORSE

I was trying to figure out what was so appealing about Emanuel Steward, who died on Oct. 25. He was one of the nicest people I knew, which is important. People don't always treat others well in boxing. It was more than that, though. I think it was his love of the sport combined with his warm nature, which allowed him to express that love openly. I last sat with him prior to the Wladimir Klitschko-David Haye fight in a hotel lobby in Germany. He went on and on wide-eyed as he broke down the fight with the enthusiasm of a rookie trainer, not one who had been in boxing for a half century. And I ate it up. This was the great Emanuel Steward, imparting his wisdom with infectious passion. I felt so fortunate that day, just as I had any time my path crossed his. Why is this item "worse?" Because he's gone. Heartbreaking.

10 A MONTHLY BOXING LIST

THIS MONTH: Greatest southpaws in the history of the sport.

1. **MARVELOUS MARVIN HAGLER** (1973-87)
2. **PERNELL WHITAKER** (1984-2001)
3. **MANNY PACQUIAO** (1995-ACTIVE)
4. **TIGER FLOWERS** (1918-27)
5. **JOE CALZAGHE** (1993-2008)
6. **MICHAEL MOORER** (1988-2008)
7. **MARVIN JOHNSON** (1973-87)
8. **LEW TENDLER** (1913-28)
9. **ANTONIO TARVER** (1997-ACTIVE)
10. **VICENTE SALDIVAR** (1961-73)

Note: *This list was borrowed from the late Bert Sugar's* The Ultimate Book of Boxing Lists, *which is a must-buy for serious boxing fans.*

RING POLL

A MONTHLY POLL OF OUR RINGTV.COM READERS.

Manny Pacquiao and Juan Manuel Marquez were unable to separate themselves from one another in three fights, all of which were close (two victories for Pacquiao, one draw) and controversial. Will the same thing happen when they meet again in December? Here's the poll question and your responses: **What will be the result of Manny Pacquiao-Juan Manuel Marquez IV on Dec. 8 in Las Vegas?**

THE PERCENTAGES:

Pacquiao by KO	40.7
Pacquiao by close decision	14.2
Marquez by close decision	14.1
Pacquiao by clear decision	10.0
Marquez by clear decision	9.4
Marquez by KO	7.0
Draw	4.7

NOTE: 7,626 readers voted in the poll.

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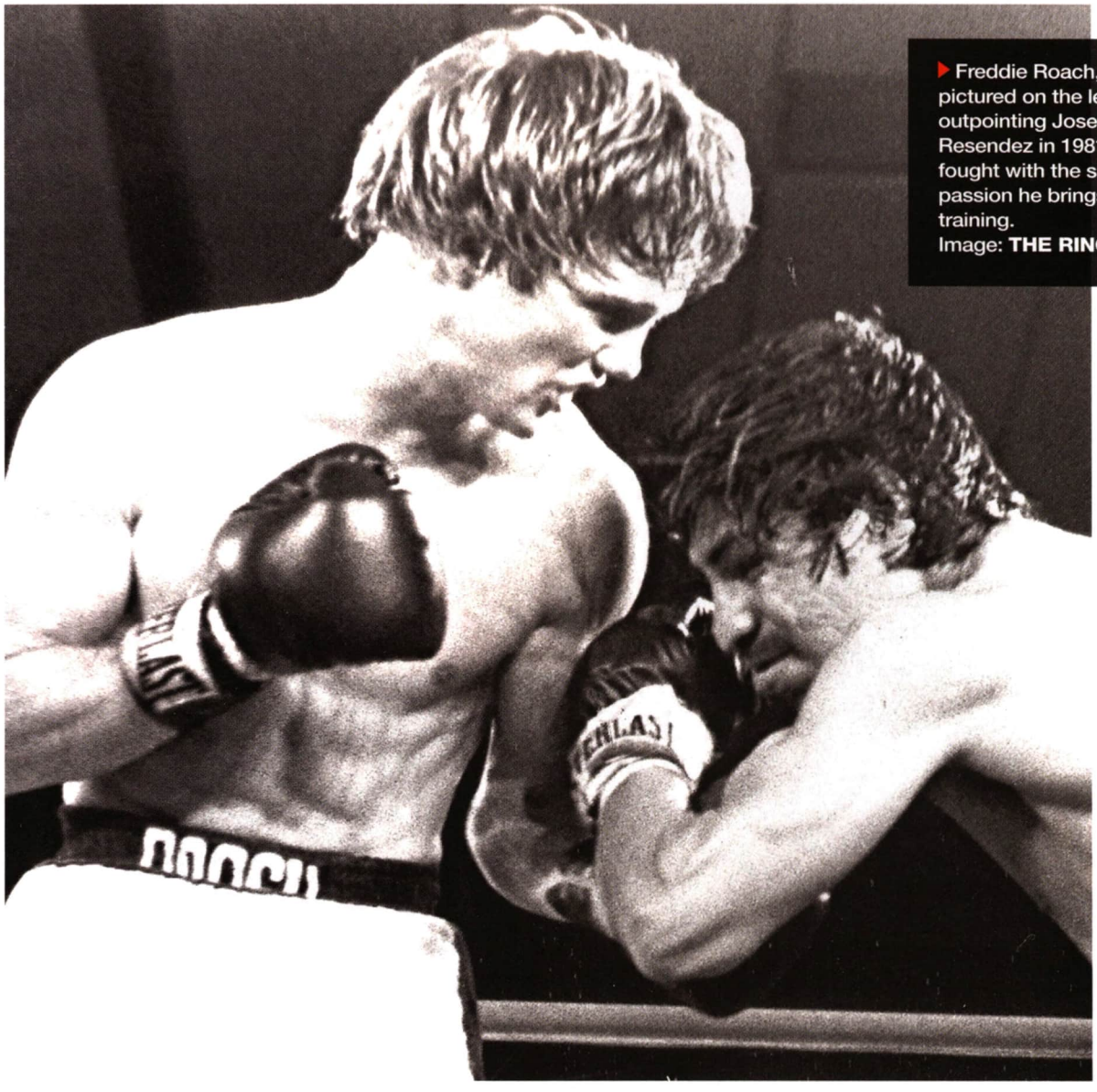


Freddie Roach, pictured on the left outpointing Jose Resendez in 1981, fought with the same passion he brings to training.
Image: **THE RING**

FREDDIE ROACH

By Lem Satterfield

Long before he was voted Trainer of The Year five times by the Boxing Writers Association of America, Freddie Roach was a rugged brawler who was tutored by the legendary Eddie Futch.

Roach, who fought between 1978 and 1986, wasn't able to beat his most-talented foes – including Hall of Famers Hector "Macho" Camacho and Bobby Chacon – but they always knew they were in a fight. He won 26 of his first 27 fights before finishing his career at 40-15, with 15 knockouts.

THE RING caught up to Roach, 52, and asked him to reveal the best he faced in 10 key categories.

BEST OVERALL: HECTOR "MACHO" CAMACHO

The most complete overall boxer that I've ever fought in my career was Hector Camacho. His speed was tough to deal with ... and he had a lot of boxing ability.

I trained to punch with him, and he would come in, throw a combination, but when I threw one back, he would be 10 feet away from me. This would be after he had hit me with three or four shots. His perpetual motion

was tremendous, and he was just too quick for me.

BEST BOXER:
CAMACHO

That one would probably be Camacho again. He wasn't a big puncher, but everything else, he did great. He had speed, fast feet, fast hands, good head movement. If Hector Camacho had stayed clean, he could have been one of the best fighters in the sport, pound-for-pound, for all time, I think.

BEST CHIN:
GREG HAUGEN

That would be Greg Haugen. When I hit him with some solid shots, he was right there punching back. He was just a very, very durable guy. I thought I could break him down, but he broke me down.

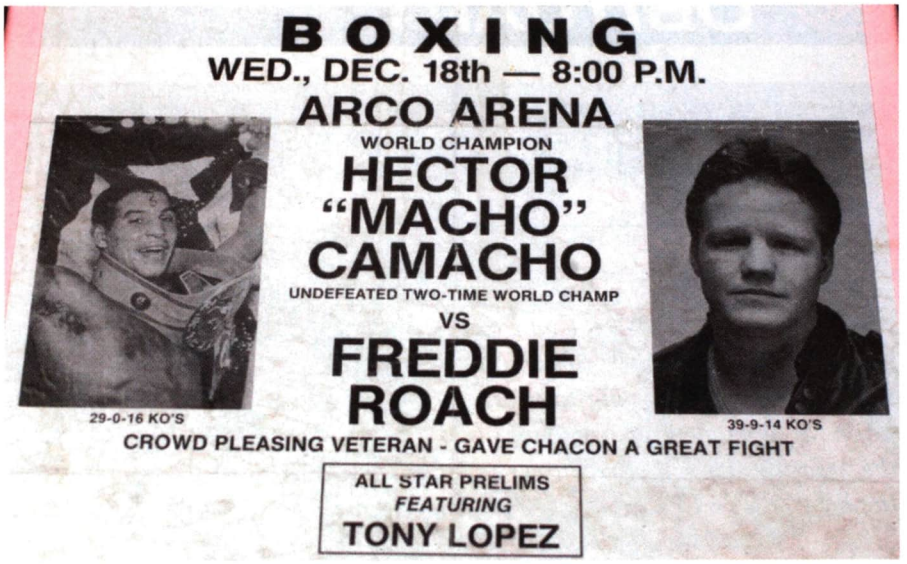
BEST JAB:
ANDY NANCE

That would be Andy Nance. You know what? He hit me with a jab in the first round, and it hurt me. Now, I was a tough guy and I had a good chin. So I was like, "What's this guy got, rocks in his gloves or something?" That's what I was saying to myself. He just had a very, very strong, hard jab.

BEST PUNCHER:
LENNY VALDEZ

The best puncher was Lenny Valdez. He was a very dangerous guy for the first three rounds, and I found out about that in the second round. That was my first time ever going down in my life, and it changed my life completely. I thought [being knocked out] was impossible before that.

BEST DEFENSE:
MARIO CHAVEZ



▶ Freddie Roach said Hector Camacho was the best overall fighter he ever faced. Image: **THE RING**

Mario Chavez was a very, very solid defensive fighter that I fought early in my career. I remember when I fought him that I saw the right hand opening, so I fired the right hand as hard as I could, and he dipped his head and I hit him on the forehead.

He just baffled me with his defense. He used his forehead to break my hand. The thing was, I was shooting for the chin and he was always well aware of what I was up to. He was a very, very intelligent fighter with good defense. Not a person that a lot of people will know, but he was a very, very tough guy to hit.

FASTEST FEET:
CAMACHO

That would have to be Camacho again. He just had unbelievable in and out motion. By the time you swing back at him, he would be 10 feet away from you. He wouldn't be just slightly out of range, he would be way out of range. I mean, his feet were unbelievable.

FASTEST HANDS:
CAMACHO

That would be Camacho again, and I'm sorry. But he would land a three- or four-punch combination, and that would be before I could get one back.

STRONGEST:
TOMMY CORDOVA

Tommy Cordova was like Aaron Pryor, a white Aaron Pryor. He just kept on coming. I mean, when he got off of the stool, he would just run across the ring and attack you.

He would maintain the pressure on you. He wasn't a big puncher, but he was strong with his shoulders and would just back you up all night long. That's how he beat me.

SMARTEST:
BOBBY CHACON

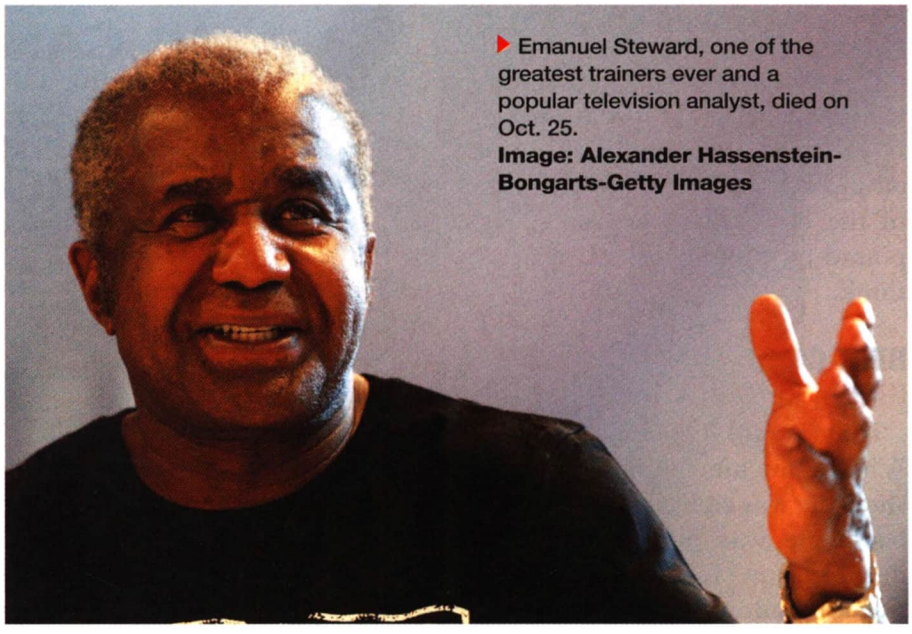
That would probably be Bobby Chacon. I knocked him down twice in the second round, and he talked himself out of getting knocked out. He said, "Is that all you've got you little punk?" And I said to myself, "Maybe he's not hurt that bad."

So I should have finished him, but I had a doubt in my head because he asked me if that was all that I had. So he basically talked himself out of being knocked out.

EMANUEL STEWARD: 1944-2012

By **Brian Harty**

Editor's note: THE RING editors learned of Emanuel Steward's passing as we were going to press. Look for a detailed retrospective of the great trainer's life and career in the February 2013 issue.



Emanuel Steward, one of the greatest trainers ever and a popular television analyst, died on Oct. 25.
Image: Alexander Hassenstein-Bongarts-Getty Images

Boxing lost a giant when Emanuel Steward died at 68 on Oct. 25. One of the greatest and most-beloved trainers in history turned Detroit's Kronk Gym into a factory for champions, churning out so many world titleholders – 41 in all – that the gym itself became a household name.

Steward was a talented amateur boxer as a youth, winning the national Golden Gloves as a bantamweight in 1963. He then began training children, starting with half-brother James in 1969, and quickly learned that he had a knack for teaching the sweet science.

One of those early pupils was a skinny kid named Thomas Hearns, who won the Detroit Golden Gloves in 1971 (along with six other Steward charges) before going on to become a Hall of Fame boxer.

Steward's first fighter to win a world title was Detroit's Hilmer Kenty. Other locals followed, as well as Michael Moorer and Gerald McClellan from deeper in the Midwest.

Steward's successes soon attracted gifted fighters from around the world: Lennox Lewis, Wladimir Klitschko, Mike McCallum, Evander Holyfield, Julio Cesar Chavez, Oscar De La Hoya, Jeff Fenech, Oliver McCall, Tony Tucker … the list goes on.

Hall of Famers. Six world heavyweight titleholders. They all sought Steward's services.

Sugar Ray Leonard, who engaged in THE RING's 1981 Fight of the Year with Hearns, credits the work he did with Steward for helping him make the 1976 U.S. Olympic team.

Steward also developed a reputation as a rehabilitator. He trained McCall to upset then-WBC beltholder Lewis in 1994. He then took over training duties for Lewis, whom he helped remake into the undisputed champ during the second half of the 1990s.

And he revamped the career of Klitschko after his knockout loss to Lamon Brewster in 2004. Over the second half of the 2000s, Steward guided the Ukrainian to unified titles and THE RING championship.

Virgil Hunter, who received the Boxing Writers Association of America's award for Trainer of the Year last year, expressed the view of many in the industry:

"He's one of the mentors," Hunter told RingTV.com. "I can say this in confidence: In my mind, Manny was the best trainer ever in boxing."

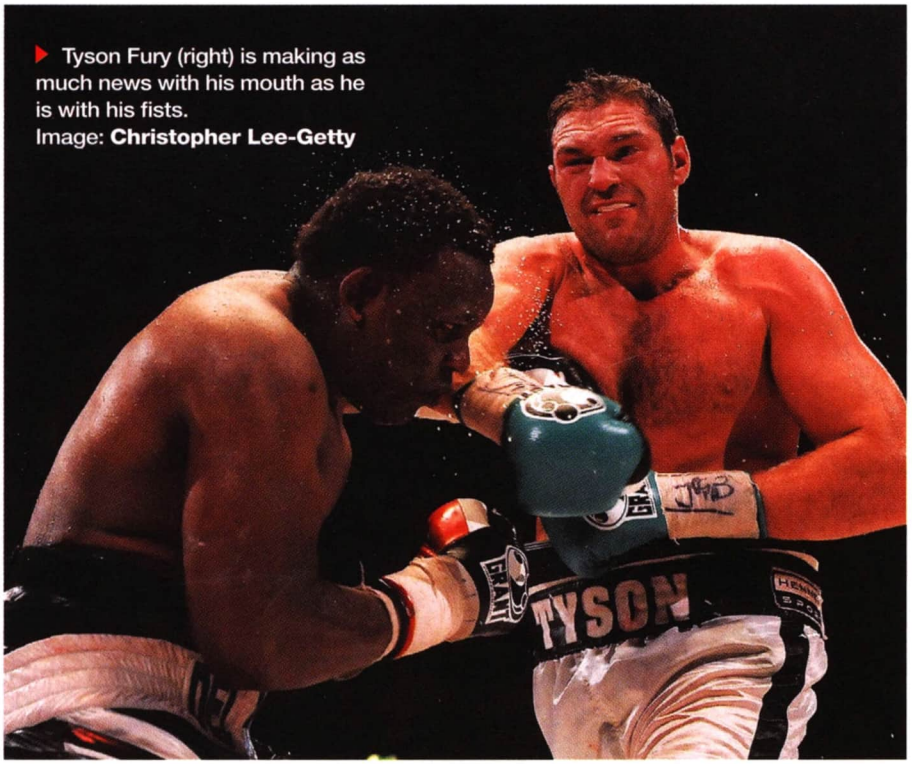
Steward, who served as an insightful commentator on HBO's Championship Boxing series in recent years, was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1996 even though a decade and a half of productivity still lay ahead.

"He was a giant in our business," said promoter Lou DiBella, whose fighter Andy Lee is one of Steward's more-recent students. "He was the greatest teacher of his generation and a great ambassador for the sport. As long as there's boxing, no one will forget Emanuel Steward."

Countless individuals connected to the sport, and those who simply love boxing, will make sure of that.

PRIDE AND FURY

By **Brian Harty**



Tyson Fury (right) is making as much news with his mouth as he is with his fists.
Image: **Christopher Lee-Getty**

Puerto Rican featherweight **Orlando Cruz** became a mainstream news story on Oct. 3 when he released a statement that included the declaration, "I have always been and always will be a proud gay man." Aside from a few half-witted remarks on message boards about "clinching," the response in the boxing world was overwhelmingly supportive (See page 56). But the challenge of Cruz's situation was underscored several days later when British heavyweight **Tyson Fury** used his Twitter account to chide rival **David Price** by calling him **Tony Bellew**'s "gay lover." Fans mostly dismissed that as "trash talk" (See page 99). The **British Boxing Board of Control** was not amused, however, and Fury could be facing sanctions. ...

The "other" Tyson had his visa to enter New Zealand for a motivational speaking engagement revoked because of his past rape conviction. It's saying something when a quote associated with him stands out in such an already-crowded room, though – and so, courtesy of Willie Jackson, chair of the Urban Maori Authority, which tried to sponsor the visit: "We are not bringing Mike Tyson here to rape anyone. We are bringing Mike Tyson here to change people's lives." ...

Following a tip-off, three young men from Zimbabwe were arrested and charged with murder in connection with the robbery in which heavyweight **Corrie Sanders** was killed. Meanwhile, the incident sparked a debate in South Africa over the state of the public health system after it was alleged that Sanders, who was shot in the stomach and hand, had been turned away by one hospital and sent to a lesser-equipped facility because of where the crime took place, and that he couldn't be taken to a closer private hospital because he had no medical insurance. ...

The popularity of Indian boxer **Mary Kom** has surged since she won a bronze medal at the London Olympics, so much so that a movie about her life is in the works. ...

For Irish gold medalist **Katie Taylor**, the Olympic experience and outpouring of support for women's boxing was so potent that she has passed on lucrative offers to turn pro, saying, "I want that feeling again!"...

In Cuba, plans were announced to honor boxing hero **Teofilo Stevenson**, who passed away in June, by constructing a public square in his name. ...

Family troubles for **Miguel Cotto** and **Robert Stieglitz**: German police responded to a fight over some property between Stieglitz and his former father-in-law, while Cotto was ordered by a court in Puerto Rico to pay his uncle and fired trainer, **Evangelista Cotto**, $2 million for past services. ...

And **Andre Ward** became the latest boxer to throw out the first ball at a Major League Baseball game, in this case for the Oakland A's. The pitch he used was called a "skillball," which involves delivering a 90-mph cutter from inside the batter's box – not the most aesthetically pleasing throw, but technically very impressive. Just kidding; he lobbed it. ■

BY HEATHER SHANHOLTZ

KINI LEE

Image: Dave Alan

HEIGHT: 5-foot-7
WEIGHT: 128 pounds
MEASUREMENTS: 34-24-38
STANCE: Southpaw
FAVORITE BOXER: Manny Pacquiao
HOMETOWN: Hermosa Beach, Calif.
CURRENT LOCATION: Las Vegas
WHERE YOU'VE SEEN HER: V.I.P. Cocktail Waitress for AMG nightlife
BOOKING INFO: KINILEE@YAHOO.COM

KINI LEE

THE RING CARD GIRL OF THE MONTH BY: **HEATHER SHANHOLTZ**

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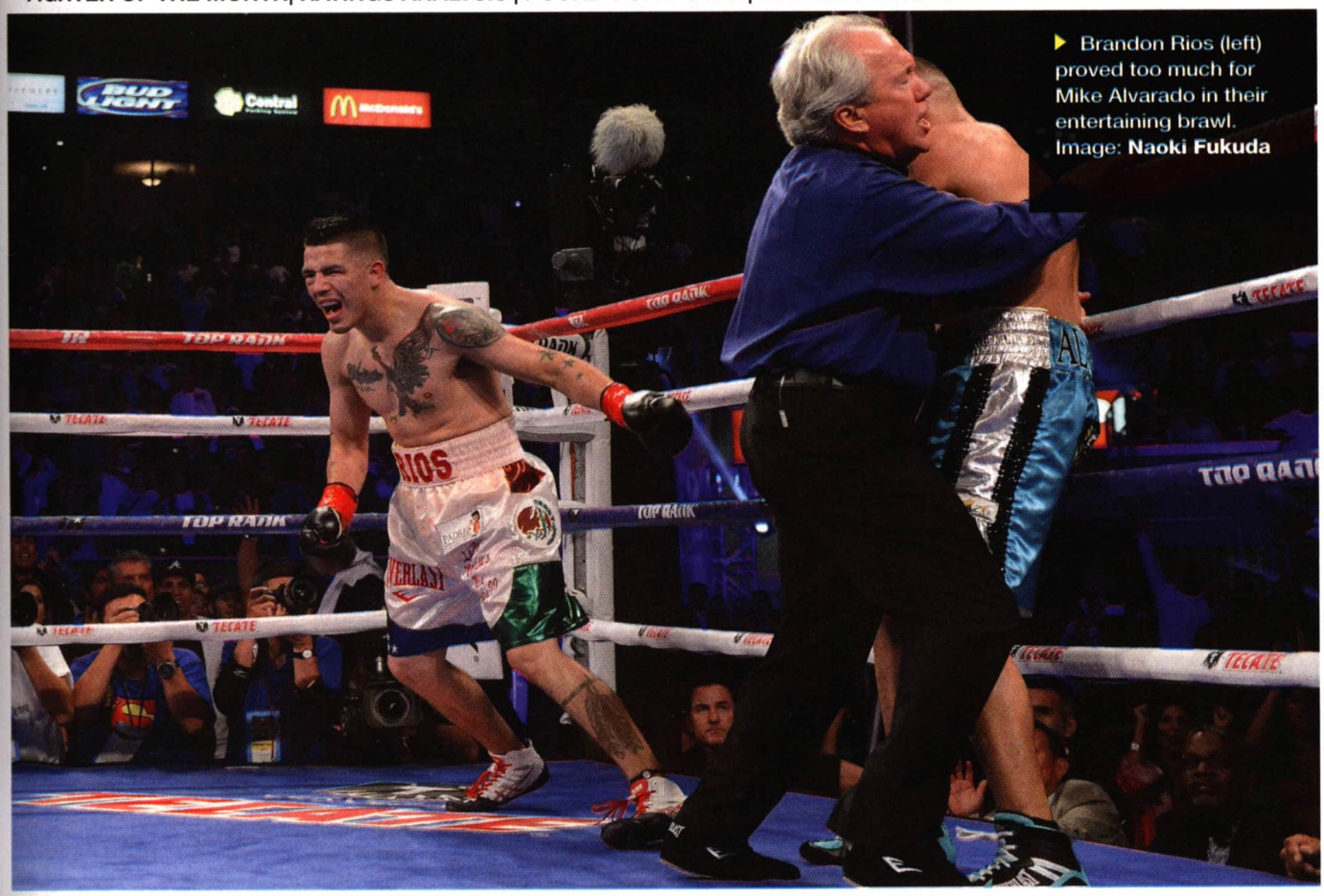


Brandon Rios (left) proved too much for Mike Alvarado in their entertaining brawl. Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

FIGHTER OF THE MONTH:

BRANDON RIOS

By **Michael Rosenthal**

CARSON, Calif. – Brandon Rios isn't the best boxer in the world. His defense is woeful. He isn't going to wow anyone with his speed and athleticism. And, truth be told, he isn't particularly cunning in the ring.

No one is tougher and more determined, though. And that can go a long way in the most-demanding of sports.

Rios proved that again against Mike Alvarado on Oct. 13, scoring a dramatic seventh-round knockout to end what could be the Fight of the Year on the Nonito Donaire-Toshiaki Nishioka card at Home Depot Center.

The fight was even on the scorecards through six rounds. However, make no mistake: Rios struggled. The fighters exchanged hellacious shots from beginning to end but Alvarado, the busier of the two, seemed to get the better of it.

Here's the thing, though: Rios, possessing perhaps the best chin in boxing, cannot be deterred. He'll eat as many punches as it takes to get to you. And, with the exception of Richard Abril (SD 12) and Anthony Peterson (DQ 7) over the past four years, he always gets to you.

In his last 13 fights – all victories – Rios has 11 knockouts, which is remarkable given that he is fighting better and better opponents. Peterson was DQ'd for not fighting; he knew what was coming.

One day Rios probably will be outboxed by a superior technician. One thing seems certain, though: That person is going to have to go through hell to do it. ■

POUND FOR POUND: No change.

HEAVYWEIGHTS: No change.

CRUISERWEIGHTS:
The steroid suspension of Antonio Tarver (No. 5 last month) was upheld by the California State Athletic Commission, so he was dropped from the list. Undefeated Russian Rakhim Chakhkiev arrived at No. 10.

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS:
Jean Pascal (No. 2 last month) was dropped due to inactivity, pulling everyone from No. 3 and below up a notch and creating space for British champion Tony Bellew at No. 10. Isaac Chilemba (No. 8 last month) didn't prove much with an eight-round decision over Rayco Saunders, but was elevated to No. 7 to reflect his solid work at 175.

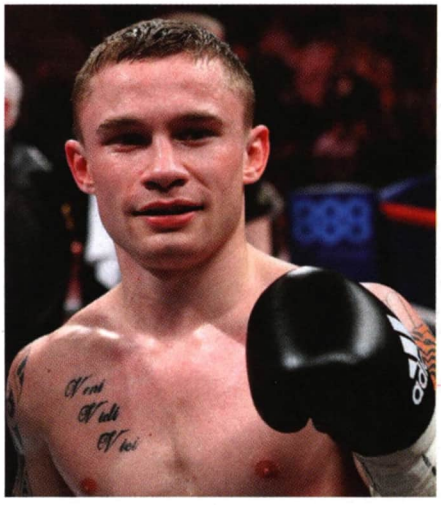
SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS:
Adonis Stevenson (No. 10 last month) dropped the very game Don George (unrated) five times on his way to a 12th-round stoppage. Thus, he switched places with Edwin Rodriguez (No. 9 last month).

MIDDLEWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS:
Alfredo Angulo (No. 9 last month) exited the ratings due to inactivity, lifting Cotto-ponent Austin Trout up a notch and clearing the way for Russian Zaurbek Baysangurov at No. 10.

WELTERWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS:
Brandon Rios (unrated) and Mike Alvarado (No. 5 last month) gave everyone what they wanted and then some in their Fight of the Year candidate. Rios scored a seventh-round TKO to claim the No. 5 spot, while Alvarado dropped to No. 8 and Alusegun Ajose (No. 10 last month) was bumped off the list.



Carl Frampton entered THE RING Ratings after stopping Steve Molitor. Image: **Scott Heavey-Getty Images**

LIGHTWEIGHTS:
Kevin Mitchell (No. 4 last month) fell to No. 7 after being stopped by Ricky Burns, who remained at No. 3. John Murray, who lost to Mitchell in 2011, remained behind his rival with a drop from No. 5 to No. 8.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS: No change.

FEATHERWEIGHTS:
No. 1 Yuriorkis Gamboa fell out because of inactivity and isn't expected to fight at featherweight again anyway. Everyone on the list was elevated one position, and Indonesian Daud Yordan entered at No. 10.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS:
Steve Molitor (No. 9 last month) was knocked out and off the list by Irishman Carl Frampton, who stepped into the No. 10 spot. Akifumi Shimoda (No. 4 last month) hasn't fought at 122 for over a year; he dropped out, granting everyone below a raise and creating a vacancy for undefeated Russian Alexander Bakhtin at No. 10. Then, on Oct. 13, Nonito Donaire (No. 3 last month) knocked out Toshiaki Nishioka (No. 1 at the time) to become THE RING Champion at 122 pounds. Nishioka fell to No. 3 and Abner Mares (No. 7 last month) was elevated to No. 4, lifting everyone below No. 5 Jeffrey Mathebula and creating a space for good ol' Vic Darchinyan to stake out at No. 10.

BANTAMWEIGHTS:
Jorge Arce (No. 7 last month) is no longer a 118-pounder, so he's out. Mexican KO specialist Julio Ceja claimed No. 10.

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS:
Juan Carlos Sanchez Jr. (No. 6 last month) swapped spots with No. 5 Tomonobu Shimizu after a ninth-round KO of Rodel Mayol, who dropped from No. 8 to No. 10. Shimizu then announced his retirement. Thai fighter Oleydong Sithsamerchai acquired the No. 10 slot.

FLYWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS:
Ulises Solis (No. 2 last month) was dropped due to inactivity, creating another top-tier vacuum that lifted everyone else up a notch. Mexican Armando Torres moved into the vacancy at the bottom. Adrian Hernandez (No. 5 last month) scored a sixth-round KO over Kompayak Porpramook (No. 3 at the time), so the two of them traded places. Unrated Odilon Zaleta then knocked out Armando Torres to take his No. 10 position.

STRAWWEIGHTS:
South African Hekkie Budler debuted at No. 10 after scoring a unanimous decision over Florante Condes, who fell off the list from No. 8. Then the new No. 8, Katsunari Takayama, dropped off after losing a split decision to unrated Handig Singwancha. Undefeated Nicaraguan Carlos Buitrago entered at No. 10.

Edwin Rodriguez (left) stopped Jason Escalera on Sept. 29 but dropped a notch when Adonis Stevenson KO'd Don George a few weeks later. Image: Emily Harney

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HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT UNLIMITED

C **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO**
Ukraine | 58-3-0 (51 KOs)

1. **VITALI KLITSCHKO**
Ukraine | 45-2-0 (41 KOs)
2. **ALEXANDER POVETKIN**
Russia | 25-0-0 (17 KOs)
3. **TOMASZ ADAMEK**
Poland | 47-2-0 (29 KOs)
4. **DAVID HAYE**
UK | 26-2-0 (24 KOs)
5. **KUBRAT PULEV**
Bulgaria | 17-0-0 (9 KOs)
6. **ROBERT HELENIUS**
Finland | 17-0-0 (11 KOs)
7. **DENIS BOYTSOV**
Russia | 31-0-0 (25 KOs)
8. **RUSLAN CHAGAEV**
Uzbekistan | 30-2-1 (19 KOs)
9. **CHRIS ARREOLA**
U.S. | 35-2-0 (30 KOs)
10. **TYSON FURY**
UK | 19-0-0 (14 KOs)

CRUISERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 200 LBS

C **YOAN PABLO HERNANDEZ**
Cuba | 27-1-0 (13 KOs)

1. **MARCO HUCK**
Germany | 34-2-1 (25 KOs)
2. **KRZYSZTOF WLODARCZYK**
Poland | 47-2-1 (33 KOs)
3. **OLAAFOLABI**
UK | 19-2-4 (9 KOs)
4. **DENIS LEBEDEV**
Russia | 24-1-0 (18 KOs)
5. **GUILLERMO JONES**
Panama | 38-3-2 (30 KOs)
6. **LATEEF KAYODE**
Nigeria | 18-0-1 (14 KOs)
7. **GIACOBBE FRAGOMENI**
Italy | 29-3-2 (12 KOs)
8. **MATEUSZ MASTERNAK**
Poland | 28-0-0 (21 KOs)
9. **TROY ROSS**
Canada | 25-3-0 (16 KOs)
10. **RAKHIM CHAKHKIEV**
Russia | 15-0-0 (12 KOs)

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 175 LBS

C **CHAD DAWSON**
U.S. | 31-2-0 (17 KOs)

1. **BERNARD HOPKINS**
U.S. | 52-6-2 (32 KOs)
2. **TAVORIS CLOUD**
U.S. | 24-0-0 (19 KOs)
3. **NATHAN CLEVERLY**
UK | 24-0-0 (11 KOs)
4. **GABRIEL CAMPILLO**
Spain | 21-4-1 (8 KOs)
5. **BEIBUT SHUMENOV**
Kazakhstan | 13-1-0 (8 KOs)
6. **KARO MURAT**
Germany | 25-1-1 (15 KOs)
7. **ISAAC CHILEMBA**
Malawi | 19-1-1 (9 KOs)
8. **MIKKEL KESSLER**
Denmark | 45-2-0 (34 KOs)
9. **JUERGEN BRAEHMER**
Germany | 38-2-0 (30 KOs)
10. **TONY BELLEW**
UK | 18-1-0 (12 KOs)

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 168 LBS

C **ANDRE WARD**
U.S. | 26-0-0 (14 KOs)

1. **CARL FROCH**
UK | 29-2-0 (21 KOs)
2. **LUCIAN BUTE**
Romania | 30-1-0 (24 KOs)
3. **THOMAS OOSTHUIZEN**
South Africa | 20-0-1 (13 KOs)
4. **ARTHUR ABRAHAM**
Armenia | 35-3-0 (27 KOs)
5. **ROBERT STIEGLITZ**
Russia | 42-3-0 (23 KOs)
6. **SAKIO BIKA**
Cameroon | 30-5-2 (21 KOs)
7. **GEORGE GROVES**
UK | 15-0-0 (12 KOs)
8. **ANDRE DIRRELL**
U.S. | 20-1-0 (14 KOs)
9. **ADONIS STEVENSON**
Canada | 19-1-0 (16 KOs)
10. **EDWIN RODRIGUEZ**
Dominican Rep. | 22-0-0 (15 KOs)

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 160 LBS

C **SERGIO MARTINEZ**
Argentina | 50-2-2 (28 KOs)

1. **DANIEL GEALE**
Australia | 28-1-0 (15 KOs)
2. **FELIX STURM**
Germany | 37-3-2 (16 KOs)
3. **GENNADY GOLOVKIN**
Kazakhstan | 24-0-0 (21 KOs)
4. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ JR.**
Mexico | 46-1-1 (32 KOs)
5. **DMITRY PIROG**
Russia | 20-0-0 (15 KOs)
6. **MATTHEW MACKLIN**
UK | 29-4-0 (20 KOs)
7. **HASSAN N'DAM N'JIKAM**
France | 27-0-0 (17 KOs)
8. **MARTIN MURRAY**
UK | 24-0-1 (10 KOs)
9. **PETER QUILLIN**
U.S. | 27-0-0 (20 KOs)
10. **GRZEGORZ PROKSA**
Poland | 28-2-0 (21 KOs)

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 154 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.**
U.S. | 43-0-0 (26 KOs)
2. **MIGUEL COTTO**
Puerto Rico | 37-3-0 (30 KOs)
3. **SAUL ALVAREZ**
Mexico | 41-0-1 (30 KOs)
4. **ERISLANDY LARA**
Cuba | 17-1-1 (11 KOs)
5. **VANES MARTIROSYAN**
U.S. | 32-0-0 (20 KOs)
6. **CARLOS MOLINA**
Mexico | 20-5-2 (6 KOs)
7. **JAMES KIRKLAND**
U.S. | 31-1-0 (27 KOs)
8. **CORNELIUS BUNDRAGE**
U.S. | 32-4-0 (19 KOs)
9. **AUSTIN TROUT**
U.S. | 25-0-0 (14 KOs)
10. **ZAURBEK BAYSANGUROV**
Russia | 28-1-0 (20 KOs)

WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 147 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **MANNY PACQUIAO**
Philippines | 54-4-2 (38 KOs)
2. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.**
U.S. | 43-0-0 (26 KOs)
3. **KELL BROOK**
UK | 28-0-0 (18 KOs)
4. **PAULIE MALIGNAGGI**
U.S. | 31-4-0 (7 KOs)
5. **JAN ZAVECK**
Slovenia | 32-2-0 (18 KOs)
6. **TIMOTHY BRADLEY**
U.S. | 29-0-0 (12 KOs)
7. **RANDALL BAILEY**
U.S. | 43-7-0 (37 KOs)
8. **JOSESITO LOPEZ**
U.S. | 30-5-0 (18 KOs)
9. **VICTOR ORTIZ**
U.S. | 29-4-2 (22 KOs)
10. **ROBERT GUERRERO**
U.S. | 30-1-1 (18 KOs)

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 140 LBS

C **DANNY GARCIA**
U.S. | 24-0-0 (15 KOs)

1. **LUCAS MATTHYSSE**
Argentina | 32-2-0 (30 KOs)
2. **AMIR KHAN**
UK | 26-3-0 (18 KOs)
3. **ZAB JUDAH**
U.S. | 42-7-0 (29 KOs)
4. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
Mexico | 54-6-1 (39 KOs)
5. **BRANDON RIOS**
U.S. | 31-0-1 (23 KOs)
6. **ERIK MORALES**
Mexico | 52-8-0 (36 KOs)
7. **KHABIB ALLAKHVERDIEV**
Russia | 17-0-0 (8 KOs)
8. **MIKE ALVARADO**
U.S. | 33-1-0 (23 KOs)
9. **DENIS SHAFIKOV**
Russia | 30-0-1 (17 KOs)
10. **PABLO CESAR CANO**
Mexico | 25-1-1 (19 KOs)

LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 135 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **ANTONIO DEMARCO**
Mexico | 28-2-1 (21 KOs)
2. **MIGUEL VAZQUEZ**
Mexico | 31-3-0 (13 KOs)
3. **RICKY BURNS**
UK | 35-2-0 (10 KOs)
4. **RICHARD ABRIL**
Cuba | 17-3-1 (8 KOs)
5. **GAVIN REES**
UK | 37-1-1 (18 KOs)
6. **SHARIF BOGERE**
Uganda | 23-0-0 (15 KOs)
7. **KEVIN MITCHELL**
UK | 33-2-0 (24 KOs)
8. **JOHN MURRAY**
UK | 31-2-0 (18 KOs)
9. **RAYMUNDO BELTRAN**
Mexico | 26-6-0 (17 KOs)
10. **NIHITO ARAKAWA**
Japan | 23-1-1 (15 KOs)

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 130 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **TAKASHI UCHIYAMA**
Japan | 18-0-1 (15 KOs)
2. **JUAN CARLOS SALGADO**
Mexico | 26-1-1 (16 KOs)
3. **TAKAHIRO AO**
Japan | 23-2-1 (10 KOs)
4. **ROMAN MARTINEZ**
Puerto Rico | 26-1-1 (16 KOs)
5. **DIEGO MAGDALENO**
U.S. | 23-0-0 (9 KOs)
6. **ARGENIS MENDEZ**
Dominican Rep. | 20-2-0 (10 KOs)
7. **JUAN CARLOS BURGOS**
Mexico | 30-1-0 (20 KOs)
8. **JORGE SOLIS**
Mexico | 40-4-2 (29 KOs)
9. **JAVIER FORTUNA**
Dominican Rep. | 20-0-0 (15 KOs)
10. **BRYAN VASQUEZ**
Costa Rica | 29-0-0 (15 KOs)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 126 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **ORLANDO SALIDO**
Mexico | 39-11-2 (27 KOs)
2. **CHRIS JOHN**
Indonesia | 47-0-2 (22 KOs)
3. **MIKEY GARCIA**
U.S. | 29-0-0 (25 KOs)
4. **DANIEL PONCE DE LEON**
Mexico | 44-4-0 (35 KOs)
5. **BILLY DIB**
Australia | 35-1-0 (21 KOs)
6. **JHONNY GONZALEZ**
Mexico | 52-8-0 (45 KOs)
7. **JUAN MANUEL LOPEZ**
Puerto Rico | 31-2-0 (28 KOs)
8. **CELESTINO CABALLERO**
Panama | 36-4-0 (23 KOs)
9. **HOZUMI HASEGAWA**
Japan | 30-4-0 (13 KOs)
10. **DAUD YORDAN**
Indonesia | 29-2-0 (23 KOs)

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 122 LBS

C **NONITO DONAIRE**
Philippines | 30-1-0 (19 KOs)

1. **GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX**
Cuba | 11-0-0 (8 KOs)
2. **P. KRATINGDAENGGYM**
Thailand | 48-2-0 (33 KOs)
3. **TOSHIAKI NISHIOKA**
Japan | 39-5-3 (24 KOs)
4. **ABNER MARES**
U.S. | 24-0-1 (13 KOs)
5. **JEFFREY MATHEBULA**
South Africa | 26-4-2 (14 KOs)
6. **TAKALANI NDLOVU**
South Africa | 33-7-0 (18 KOs)
7. **RICO RAMOS**
U.S. | 21-1-0 (11 KOs)
8. **CARL FRAMPTON**
UK | 15-0-0 (10 KOs)
9. **ALEXANDER BAKHTIN**
Russia | 30-0-0 (11 KOs)
10. **VIC DARCHINYAN**
Armenia | 30-0-0 (11 KOs)

HOW OUR RATINGS ARE COMPILED

Championship vacancies can be filled in the following two ways: 1. THE RING's Nos. 1 and 2 contenders fight one another; 2. If the Nos. 1 and 2 contenders chose not to fight one another and either of them fights No. 3, No. 4 or No. 5, the winner may be awarded THE RING belt if the Editorial Board deems the contenders worthy.

A champion can lose his belt in six situations: 1. The Champion loses a fight in the weight class in which he is champion; 2. The Champion moves to another weight class; 3. The Champion does not schedule a fight in any weight class for 18 months; 4. The Champion does not schedule a fight at his championship weight for 18 months (even if he fights at another weight); 5. The Champion does not schedule a fight with a Top-5 contender from any weight class for two years; 6. The Champion retires.

THE RING Ratings are compiled by the magazine's Editorial Board, with the participation of THE RING Ratings Panel of boxing journalists from around the world. To see the complete list of our panelists, click on RATINGS at RingTV.com.

Records provided by boxrec.com

BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 118 LBS

C VACANT

1. **ANSELMO MORENO**
Panama | 33-1-1 (12 KOs)
2. **JOSEPH AGBEKO**
Ghana | 28-4-0 (22 KOs)
3. **SHINSUKE YAMANAKA**
Japan | 16-0-2 (11 KOs)
4. **KOKI KAMEDA**
Japan | 28-1-0 (17 KOs)
5. **LEO SANTA CRUZ**
Mexico | 21-0-1 (12 KOs)
6. **MALCOLM TUNACAO**
Philippines | 31-2-3 (19 KOs)
7. **HUGO RUIZ**
Mexico | 31-1-0 (28 KOs)
8. **A.J. BANAL**
Philippines | 28-1-1 (20 KOs)
9. **ERIC MOREL**
U.S. | 46-4-0 (23 KOs)
10. **JULIO CEJA**
Mexico | 21-0-0 (19 KOs)

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 115 LBS

C VACANT

1. **OMAR NARVAEZ**
Argentina | 36-1-2 (19 KOs)
2. **TEPPARITH SINGWANCHA**
Thailand | 21-2-0 (13 KOs)
3. **YOTA SATO**
Japan | 25-2-1 (12 KOs)
4. **SURIYAN SOR RUNGVISAI**
Thailand | 20-5-1 (7 KOs)
5. **JUAN CARLOS SANCHEZ JR.**
Mexico | 15-1-1 (8 KOs)
6. **CARLOS CUADRAS**
Mexico | 26-0-0 (22 KOs)
7. **RYO AKAHO**
Japan | 19-0-2 (12 KOs)
8. **NOBUO NASHIRO**
Japan | 18-5-1 (12 KOs)
9. **RODEL MAYOL**
Philippines | 31-6-2 (22 KOs)
10. **OLEYDONG SITHSAMERCHAI**
Thailand | 43-1-1 (16 KOs)

FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 112 LBS

C TOSHIYUKI IGARASHI
Japan | 16-1-1 (10 KOs)

1. **HERNAN MARQUEZ**
Mexico | 34-2-0 (25 KOs)
2. **BRIAN VILORIA**
U.S. | 31-3-0 (18 KOs)
3. **MORUTI MTHALANE**
S. Africa | 29-2-0 (20 KOs)
4. **SONNY BOY JARO**
Philippines | 34-11-5 (24 KOs)
5. **MILAN MELINDO**
Philippines | 28-0-0 (11 KOs)
6. **PONGSAKLEK WONJONGKAM**
Thailand | 87-4-2 (46 KOs)
7. **ROCKY FUENTES**
Philippines | 34-6-2 (20 KOs)
8. **JUAN CARLOS REVECO**
Argentina | 28-1-0 (16 KOs)
9. **EDGAR SOSA**
Mexico | 46-7-0 (28 KOs)
10. **LUIS CONCEPCION**
Panama | 26-3-0 (20 KOs)

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 108 LBS

C VACANT

1. **ROMAN GONZALEZ**
Nicaragua | 33-0-0 (28 KOs)
2. **DONNIE NIETES**
Philippines | 30-1-3 (16 KOs)
3. **ADRIAN HERNANDEZ**
Mexico | 25-2-1 (16 KOs)
4. **MASAYUKI KURODA**
Japan | 21-3-1 (13 KOs)
5. **K. PORPRAMOOK**
Thailand | 46-4-0 (31 KOs)
6. **RYO MIYAZAKI**
Japan | 17-0-3 (10 KOs)
7. **JOHNRIEL CASIMERO**
Philippines | 17-2-0 (10 KOs)
8. **RYOICHI TAGUCHI**
Japan | 17-1-1 (8 KOs)
9. **ALBERTO ROSSEL**
Peru | 29-8-0 (13 KOs)
10. **ODILON ZALETA**
Mexico | 15-2-0 (8 KOs)

STRAWWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 105 LBS

C VACANT

1. **KAZUTO IOKA**
Japan | 10-0-0 (6 KOs)
2. **MOISES FUENTES**
Mexico | 16-1-0 (8 KOs)
3. **RAUL GARCIA**
Mexico | 32-2-1 (20 KOs)
4. **DENVER CUELLO**
Philippines | 32-4-6 (21 KOs)
5. **WANHENG MENAYOTHIN**
Thailand | 24-0-0 (8 KOs)
6. **MARIO RODRIGUEZ**
Mexico | 15-6-4 (11 KOs)
7. **NKOSINATHI JOYI**
South Africa | 22-1-0 (15 KOs)
8. **AKIRA YAEGASHI**
Japan | 15-3-0 (8 KOs)
9. **HEKKIE BUDLER**
South Africa | 21-1-0 (6 KOs)
10. **CARLOS BUITRAGO**
Nicaragua | 24-0-0 (15 KOs)

POUND FOR POUND

***NOTE:** The No. 1 position is vacant.*

2. **MANNY PACQUIAO** (TIE)
Philippines | 54-4-2 (38 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT
2. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR** (TIE)
U.S. | 43-0-0 (26 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT
3. **ANDRE WARD**
U.S. | 26-0-0 (14 KOs) | SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT
4. **SERGIO MARTINEZ**
Argentina | 50-2-2 (28 KOs) | MIDDLEWEIGHT
5. **NONITO DONAIRE**
Philippines | 30-1-0 (19 KOs) | JR. FEATHERWEIGHT
6. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
Mexico | 54-6-1 (39 KOs) | JR. WELTERWEIGHT
7. **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO**
Ukraine | 58-3-0 (51 KOs) | HEAVYWEIGHT
8. **TIMOTHY BRADLEY**
U.S. | 29-0-0 (12 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT
9. **VITALI KLITSCHKO**
Ukraine | 45-2-0 (41 KOs) | HEAVYWEIGHT
10. **ANSELMO MORENO**
Panama | 33-1-1 (12 KOs) | BANTAMWEIGHT

Image: Ezra Shaw-Getty Images

THE RING POLICY ON RATED BOXERS WHO TEST POSITIVE FOR PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS

THE RING will remove from its ratings any rated boxer — including a champion — if such boxer at some point undergoes drug testing (Olympic-style or otherwise) and that boxer tests positive for a performance-enhancing drug.

In the event that a boxer has undergone testing in which the boxer provides two samples ("A" and "B") and the boxer's "A" and subsequent "B" samples test positive for a performance-enhancing drug or if his "A" sample tests positive and he waives his right to have the "B" sample tested then the boxer shall immediately be removed from the ratings.

A boxer whose "A" sample tested positive and is awaiting the results of his "B" sample will not be allowed to fight for a championship or rise in the ratings.

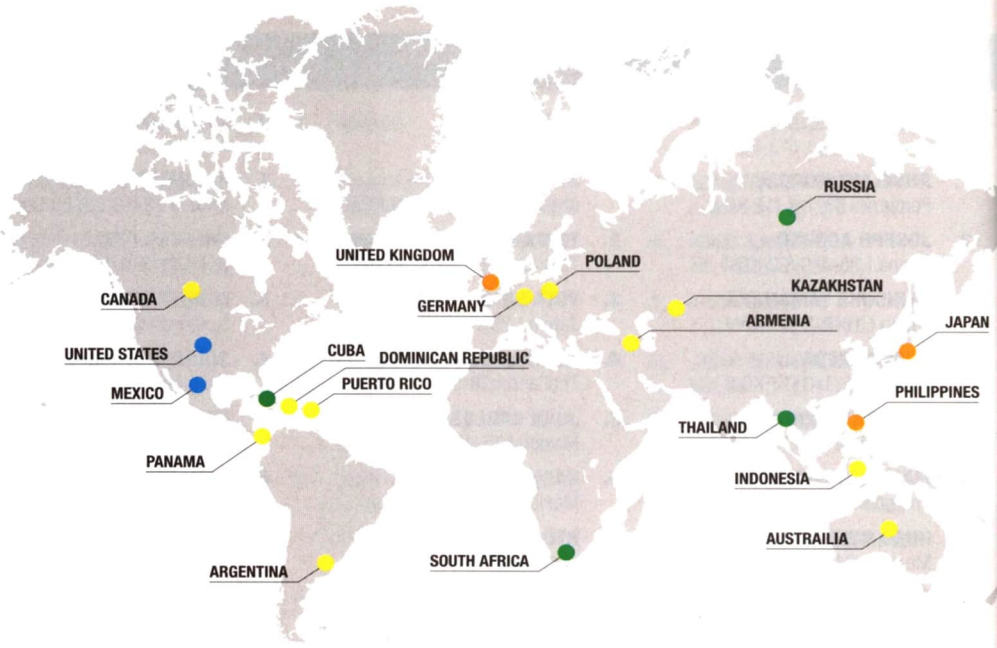
A boxer who is removed because of a positive test will have the opportunity to earn his way back into the ratings after any suspension period is completed.

A boxer who is dropped also may be reinstated if the testing agency subsequently reverses its decision or a court of competent jurisdiction finds that the test result was invalid.

RATED FIGHTERS BY COUNTRY

UNITED STATES	29-*
MEXICO	27
JAPAN	16
UNITED KINGDOM	16
PHILIPPINES	11
RUSSIA	10
THAILAND	7
SOUTH AFRICA	6
CUBA	4
ARGENTINA	4
GERMANY	4
PANAMA	4
POLAND	4
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	3
PUERTO RICO	3
ARMENIA	2
AUSTRALIA	2
CANADA	2
INDONESIA	2
KAZAKHSTAN	2
NICARAGUA	2
UKRAINE	2
BULGARIA	1
CAMEROON	1
COSTA RICA	1
DENMARK	1
FINLAND	1
FRANCE	1
GHANA	1
ITALY	1
MALAWI	1
NIGERIA	1
PERU	1
ROMANIA	1
SLOVENIA	1
SPAIN	1
UGANDA	1
UZBEKISTAN	1

**Includes two ratings for Floyd Mayweather Jr. (junior middleweight, welterweight)*

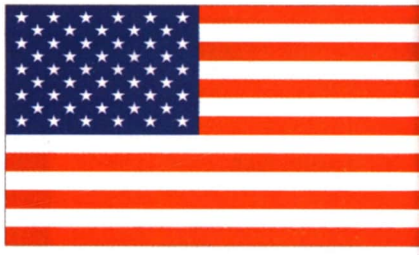


U.K. VS. JAPAN

Japan has long trailed only boxing powerhouses the United States and Mexico in number of fighters rated by THE RING. Well, suddenly the Japanese have some company. The United Kingdom made up a five-fighter deficit in one month to catch the Japanese at 16 rated fighters, the Japanese losing three and the British gaining two. Here is how they compare division by division.

DIVISION	U.K.	JAPAN
HEAVYWEIGHTS	2	0
CRUISERWEIGHTS	1	0
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS	2	0
SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	2	0
MIDDLEWEIGHTS	2	0
JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS	0	0
WELTERWEIGHTS	1	0
JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS	1	0
LIGHTWEIGHTS	4	1
JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS	0	2
FEATHERWEIGHTS	0	1
JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS	1	1
BANTAMWEIGHTS	0	2
JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS	0	3
FLYWEIGHTS	0	1
JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS	0	3
STRAWWEIGHTS	0	2
TOTAL	16	16

***Note:** Tony Bellew and Carl Frampton of the U.K. were added to the ratings; Katsunari Takayam, Tomonobu Shimizuand Akifumi Shimoda of Japan dropped out.*



DIVISION DOMINANCE

Here's a list of countries that have the most rated fighters in a particular division:

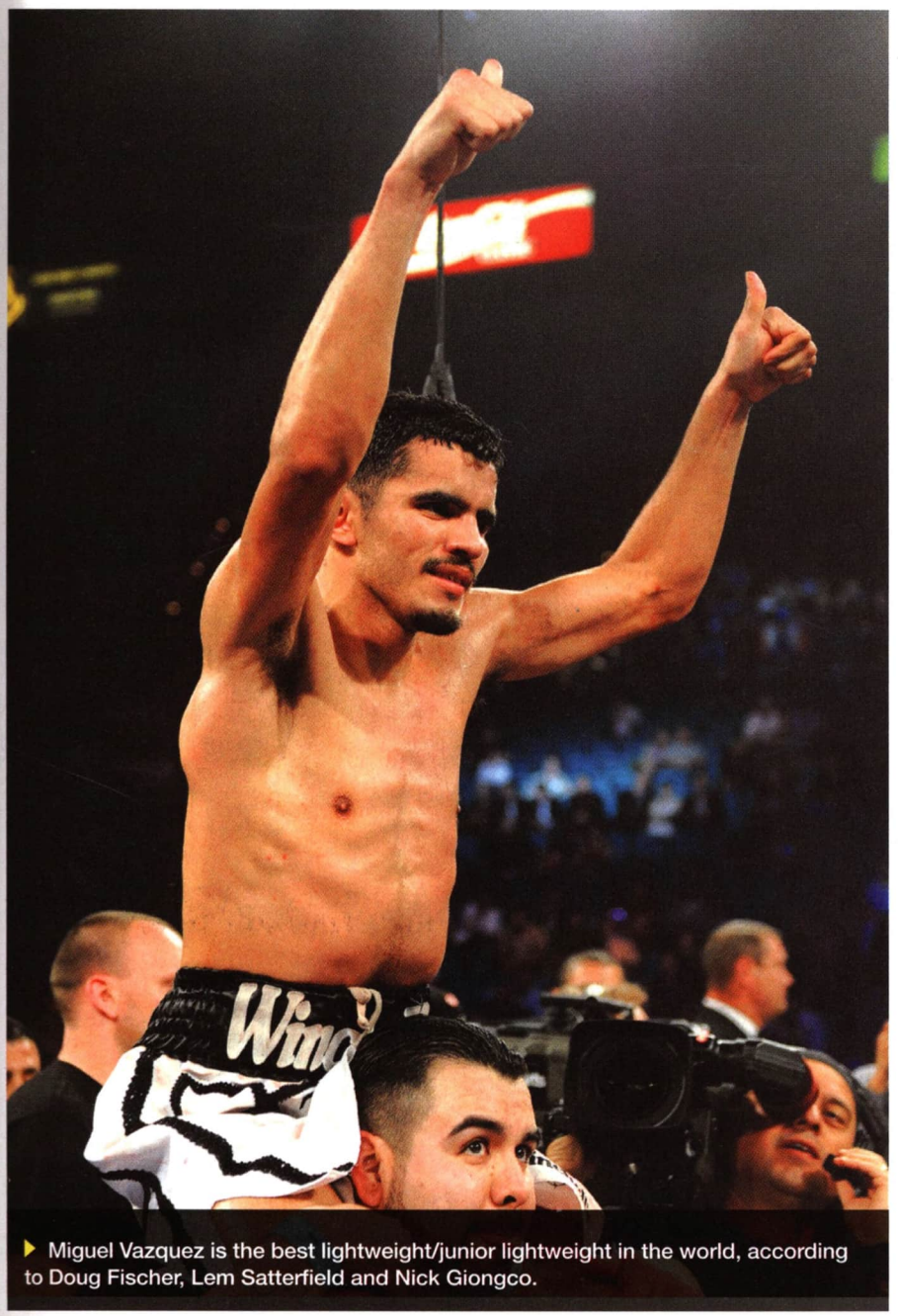
- 7 – U.S., WELTERWEIGHT
- 5 – U.S., JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT
- 4 – U.S., JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT
- 4 – U.K., LIGHTWEIGHT
- 3 – U.S., LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT
- 3 – MEXICO, JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT
- 3 – MEXICO, LIGHTWEIGHT
- 3 – MEXICO, JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT
- 3 – MEXICO, FEATHERWEIGHT
- 3 – MEXICO, BANTAMWEIGHT
- 3 – JAPAN, JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT
- 3 – THAILAND, JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT
- 3 – PHILIPPINES, FLYWEIGHT
- 3 – JAPAN, JUNIOR FLYWEIGHT
- 3 – MEXICO, STRAWWEIGHT

***NOTE:** The country of fighters who have spent large portions of their lives in two countries was determined primarily by where they spent the bulk of their childhood.*

OLD SCHOOL

Many hardcore boxing fans are the nostalgic type. We reminisce about the good ol' days, when men were men and everyone knew who the champions were. In that spirit, we initiated this new feature in which THE RING staffers – Michael Rosenthal, Doug Fischer and Lem Satterfield – and a different guest each month provide their current champions in the original eight weight classes.

Back in the day, anyone heavier than 175 pounds had to fight as a heavyweight, fighters over the middleweight limit of 160 had to fight as light heavyweights, those heavier than 147 fought as middleweights and so on. That's how it works in our new feature. Our guest this month is Nick Giongco, who covers boxing for the Manila Bulletin.



▶ Miguel Vazquez is the best lightweight/junior lightweight in the world, according to Doug Fischer, Lem Satterfield and Nick Giongco.

MICHAEL ROSENTHAL RING MAGAZINE EDITOR
HEAVYWEIGHT: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: SERGIO MARTINEZ
WELTERWEIGHT: MANNY PACQUIAO
LIGHTWEIGHT: ADRIEN BRONER
FEATHERWEIGHT: NONITO DONAIRE
BANTAMWEIGHT: ANSELMO MORENO
FLYWEIGHT: BRIAN VILORIA

DOUG FISCHER RINGTV.COM EDITOR
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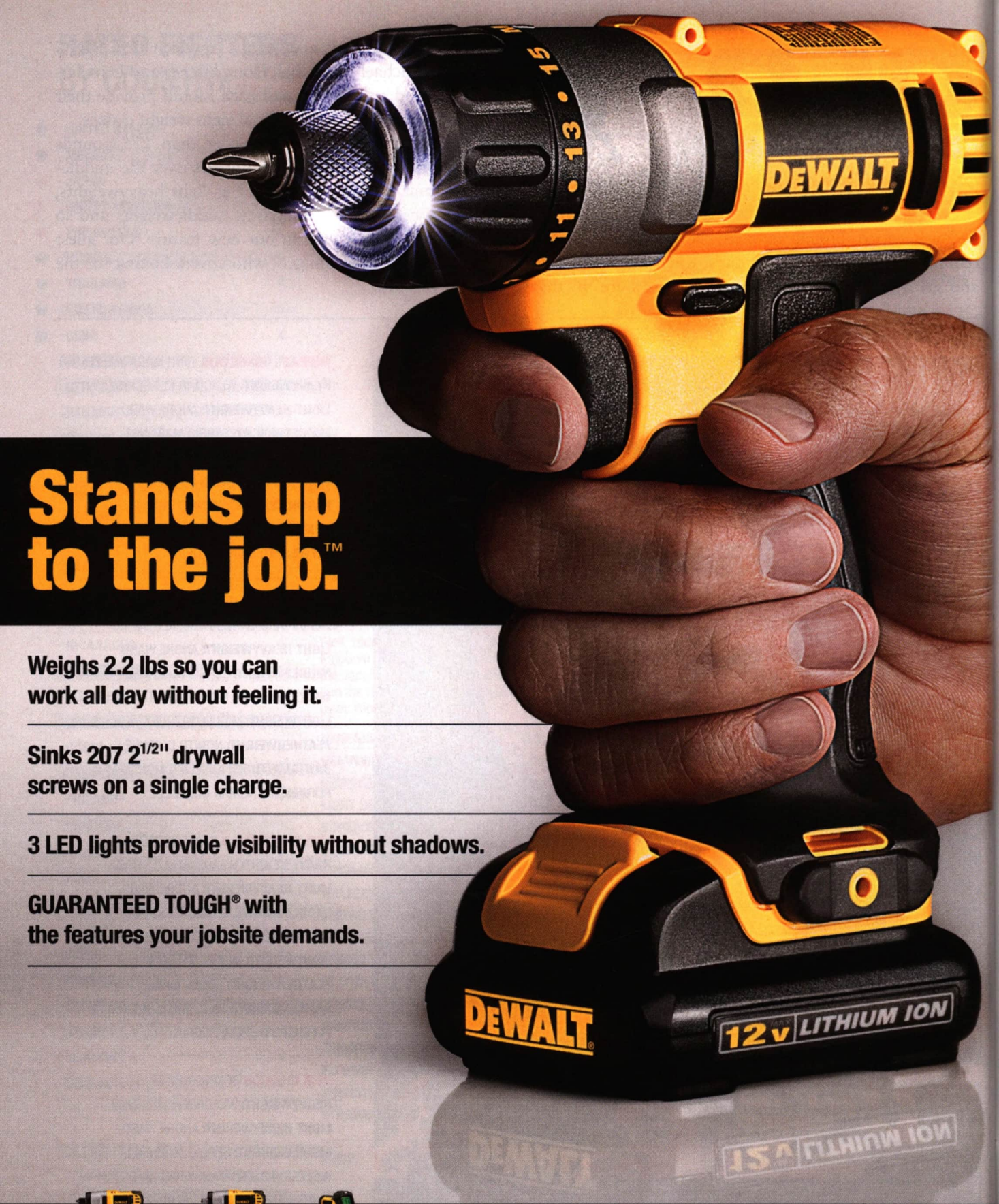
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: SERGIO MARTINEZ
WELTERWEIGHT: MANNY PACQUIAO
LIGHTWEIGHT: MIGUEL VAZQUEZ
FEATHERWEIGHT: NONITO DONAIRE
BANTAMWEIGHT: ANSELMO MORENO
FLYWEIGHT: ROMAN GONZALEZ

LEM SATTERFIELD STAFF WRITER
HEAVYWEIGHT: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: SERGIO MARTINEZ
WELTERWEIGHT: FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
LIGHTWEIGHT: MIGUEL VAZQUEZ
FEATHERWEIGHT: ABNER MARES
BANTAMWEIGHT: ANSELMO MORENO
FLYWEIGHT: BRIAN VILORIA

NICK GIONGCO BOXING WRITER
HEAVYWEIGHT: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: SERGIO MARTINEZ
WELTERWEIGHT: MANNY PACQUIAO
LIGHTWEIGHT: MIGUEL VAZQUEZ
FEATHERWEIGHT: NONITO DONAIRE
BANTAMWEIGHT: ANSELMO MORENO
FLYWEIGHT: BRIAN VILORIA

NOTE: THESE LISTS WERE COMPILED THROUGH FIGHTS OF OCT. 15.



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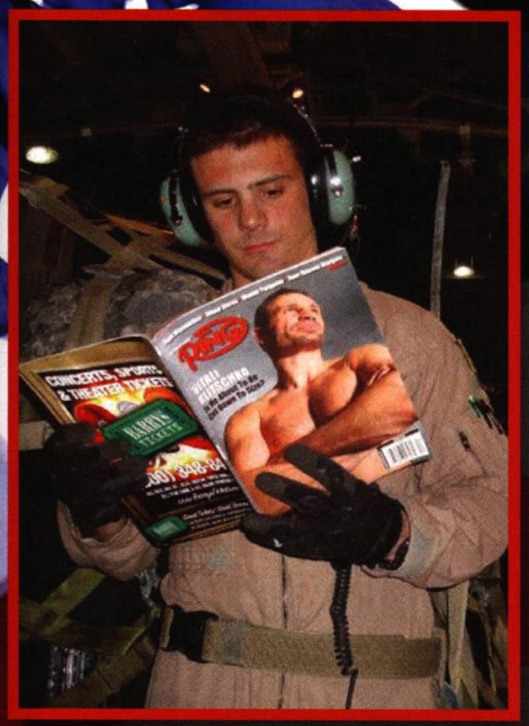

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LAST HURRAH?

IT'S ALL ON THE LINE FOR PACQUIAO IN HIS FOURTH FIGHT AGAINST MARQUEZ

By **Norm Frauenheim**

History and money, not necessarily in that order, have been made in abundance during nearly two decades of Manny Pacquiao's path from homeless kid to international celebrity. It's been fun, perhaps because a spontaneous ride from nowhere was unforeseen and unburdened by expectation.

Hindsight almost makes it look easy. It wasn't. It isn't. But that's history for you. It's hard to write, yet leaves a nostalgia that is always there for the grandkids, that next generation of fans and – for Pacquiao – the Filipinos.

In the history of athletes from the Philippines, there's never been anybody quite like him. The Filipino Congressman is boxing's equivalent of Muhammad Ali in the United States and Roberto Duran in Latin America. However, Ali shared his era with Wilt Chamberlain, Jim Brown and Henry Aaron. In Latin America, there was Pele.

In the Philippines, there's only Pacquiao.

His identity and a nation's history are entwined. Actually, they're more than that. They're inseparable in a relationship that magnifies his role and casts an exaggerated sense of urgency among his countrymen in a mix of anticipation and, yes, even anxiety for his fourth fight with Juan Manuel Marquez.

"Why are they all feeling nervous?" Pacquiao said a couple of weeks before he left the Philippines to begin a full camp at trainer Freddie Roach's Wild Card Boxing Club in Hollywood, Calif.

Ronaldo Schemidt-AFP-Getty Images

GREATEST YEARS

Manny Pacquiao has been at or near the top of the boxing world for a decade. But which were his best years going into 2012? Here is our ranking, starting with 2001. That's the year he made his U.S. debut.

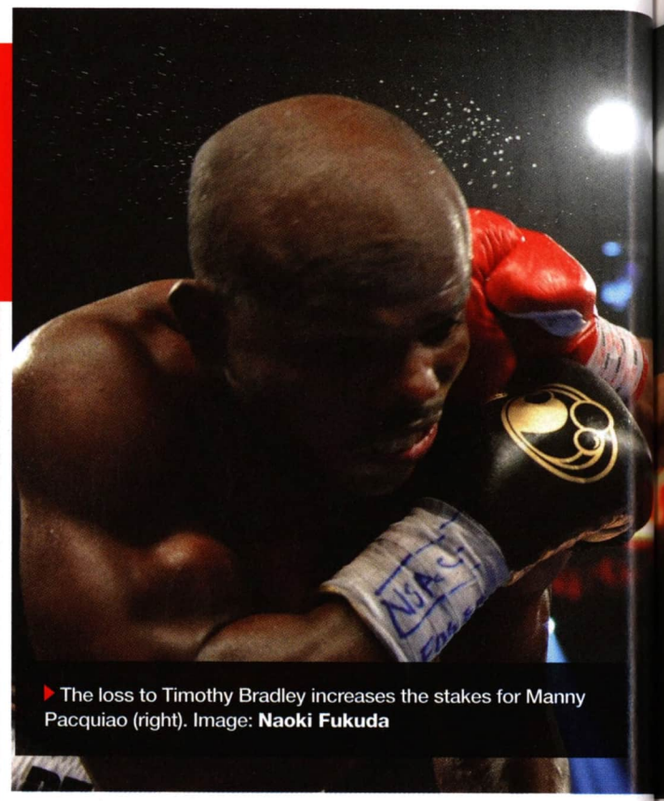
2009
Record: 2-0
Fight by fight: Defeated Ricky Hatton (KO 2) and Miguel Cotto (TKO 12)
Titles won: RING junior welterweight (Hatton); WBO welterweight (Cotto)
Comment: The second-round KO of Hatton was perhaps Pacquiao's greatest moment.

2006
Record: 3-0
Fight by fight: Defeated Erik Morales twice (TKO 10, KO 3) and Oscar Larios (UD 12)
Titles won: None
Comment: Pacquiao "retired" an all-time great in Morales.

2001
Record: 2-0-1
Fight by fight: Tetsutora Senrima (TKO 5), Wethya Sakmuangklang (KO 6), Lehlo Ledwaba (KO 6), Agapito Sanchez (D)
Titles won: IBF junior featherweight (Ledwaba)
Comment: The stunning upset of respected Ledwaba announced Pacquiao's arrival as a force.

2007
Record: 2-0
Fight by fight: Defeated Jorge Solis (KO 8) and Marco Antonio Barrera (UD 12)
Titles won: None
Comment: Barrera was considered to be in decline at this time.

2003
Record: 3-0
Fight by fight: Defeated Serikzhan Yeshmagambetov (TKO 5), Emmanuel Lucero (TKO 3) and Marco Antonio Barrera (TKO 11)
Titles won: RING featherweight (Barrera)
Comment: The victory over Barrera was his first over a member of the great trio of Mexicans.



The loss to Timothy Bradley increases the stakes for Manny Pacquiao (right). Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

Marquez, more than even Floyd Mayweather Jr., has put the island nation's collective nerves on edge. Nobody knows what to believe about whether Mayweather will ever fight Pacquiao. But Marquez is real. He is a repeated reminder that Pacquiao was beatable in his prime and perhaps even more so now. If Mayweather is annoying, Marquez is a proven source of anguish.

His loss to Tim Bradley by split decision on June 9, at Las Vegas' MGM Grand, seems to have been forgotten, or at least written off as an inevitable price of doing business in a subjective game. Bad decisions are like scars. Everybody has at least one.

There's "a prevailing sense of fear among Filipinos," says Manila Bulletin sports writer Nick Giongco, who said Pacquiao sounded "a bit annoyed" when he asked him about those nervous fans during a workout in late September in General Santos City, his hometown.

Although a rematch with Miguel Cotto appeared to be his preference, Pacquiao sees the fourth fight on Dec. 8, also at the MGM, as an opportunity to finally answer the lingering questions about Marquez, who got up from three first-round knockdowns for a draw in their initial engagement and battled to narrow losses on the scorecards in the subsequent rematches.

As he nears the end of his career, Pacquiao has a chance to resolve a loose end to his Hall of Fame resume. He can do it in the ring. He might not get that chance against Mayweather. Still, it's a risk for a man who was known to be a prodigious gambler before a born-again transformation to a Catholic lifestyle that happened, coincidently or not, after he scored a majority decision over Marquez in controversial third fight on Nov. 12, 2011.

In IV, much is at risk.

In the balance, there's a shot at Mayweather in what could be the richest fight ever. Lose, and every corner of the world other than those with large Filipino populations moves on to the next big fight. Then, there's Pacquiao's reputation. He's talking about a knockout, as if to say he must dispel any doubt about his claim on being the most dominating fighter of his time. But there's residual fear about whether controversy from the second and especially the third fight might influence the judges if the fourth goes to the cards. Roach says Pacquiao could be down "three to four rounds" even before opening bell. It's no surprise then that a definitive finish, a KO, from Pacquiao is as critical as it has ever been.

"I could sense his need to be in top shape because he knows that a loss to Marquez would be devastating," Giongco said.

Add it all up, and there's some foreboding that Pacquiao-Marquez IV might also be the end.

Pacquiao's political career continues, although plans for a run at provincial governor were reportedly put on hold. A governor's duties are a full-time job, which the Congressman apparently isn't ready to undertake until he quits boxing for

2010
Record: 2-0
Fight by fight: Defeated Joshua Clottey (UD 12) and Antonio Margarito (UD 12)
Titles won: WBC junior middleweight (Margarito; title was vacant)
Comment: The Margarito fight was a pathetic mismatch even with the Mexican's size advantage.

2002
Record: 2-0
Fight by fight: Defeated Jorge Julio (TKO 2) and Fahprakorb Rakkiatgym (TKO 1)
Titles won: None
Comment: Pacquiao had yet to build on the momentum of the Ledwaba victory.

2011
Record: 2-0
Fight by fight: Defeated Shane Mosley (UD 12) and Juan Manuel Marquez (MD 12)
Titles won: None
Comment: The Marquez decision was disputed and Mosley refused to fight. Not a great year.

2004
Record: 1-0-1
Fight by fight: Drew with Juan Manuel Marquez (SD 12) and defeated Fahsan 3K Battery (TKO 4)
Titles won: None
Comment: The draw with Marquez kicked off one of the most-competitive rivalries ever.

2005
Record: 1-1
Fight by fight: Lost to Erik Morales (UD 12) and defeated Hector Velazquez (TKO 6)
Titles won: None
Comment: Pacquiao wouldn't lose again until the disputed decision against Timothy Bradley in June 2012.

good. He also has said he wants to run for the Filipino Senate in 2016.

Whatever happens, a long career in the political ring appears to be next for Pacquiao, who turns 34 nine days after his rivalry with Marquez turns IV. Politics already are becoming the family business, or at least one of them. Wife Jinkee has filed the necessary papers for a run at the vice-governor of Sarangani province.

With plans for life beyond the ropes in place and his difficulties against Marquez on the record, there's reason for Filipinos to think, even fear, that Dec. 8 might be Pacquiao's Last Hurrah. It's a feeling not confined to the more than 92 million on one of the archipelago's 7,107 islands in the western Pacific. About 12 million Filipinos live in other countries. In the U.S., there are 3.4 million people of Filipino ancestry. Yeah, most of them are worried about the Marquez fight, too.

"He surely isn't getting any younger," says Odeen Domingo, a Filipino-American, who covers boxing for azcentral.com and The Arizona Republic, a Phoenix newspaper. "And with every fight, it seems like his life is getting more and more away from boxing. If he finally beats Marquez handily, it will be closure against the toughest opponent of his career, minus Bradley. And he can definitely call it [a career] then. I wouldn't be surprised, unless of course a big money fight with Mayweather ever comes.

"Definitely nearing the twilight. He is still fast. And he still has power. But not as much as he used to in both categories."

Despite almost universal condemnation of the scoring that went against him in the Bradley loss, there was some evidence of decline in Pacquiao's hand speed.

The Filipino fans (here celebrating Manny Pacquiao's last victory over Juan Manuel Marquez) have a great deal of emotion invested in their hero. Image: **Jay Directo-AFP-Getty Images**

The blinding rate of punches from countless angles just wasn't there. That might have been a symptom of Pacquiao's many distractions and some newfound compassion.

At least, Roach thinks so. Pacquiao's instinct for a quick stoppage, an earlier trademark, could have been lost when he became a born-again Christian, the trainer said. Roach said the challenge in workouts at the Wild Card was to recapture everything that once made Pacquiao so dangerous. But not everybody buys into that thinking.

"As to the perception that he has lost his appetite for knockouts, I don't think that is true," says Giongco, who was at ringside when Pacquiao began to gain international fame at featherweight. "My theory is that when Pacquiao began banging with the big boys at welterweight, somehow these guys were able to take his punch and at the same time get used to his moves.

"The Pacquiao of today is no longer the Pacquiao who used to dispose of the likes of (Marco Antonio) Barrera and (Erik) Morales. Through the years, Pacquiao has mellowed and his moves have become easier to read by his opponents.

"I think that if Pacquiao can become the Pacquiao of old – reckless and daring – he will get the chance to finally knock Marquez out. But if Pacquiao sticks to his old game-plan of not going all-out, it'll be another close call."

For the Filipino fan, the fear is that another close call will go Marquez's way. That's already Roach's fear. But in Mexico, a close call just means that Marquez gets robbed all over again.

"Absolutely, the fans think this is Juan's turn and they feel Juanma won the first three fights," Mexican journalist and boxing historian Hesiquio Balderas says. "But if you ask anyone in Mexico if Marquez may get the decision this time, the answer is no!! Everyone feels that in order to get the victory in this final fight, Marquez needs to go for the KO."

Pacquiao's reputation in Mexico has taken a hit from the lingering controversy over the debatable decisions. Even though he was dubbed The Mexican Assassin – a nickname he disliked – Pacquiao was once popular in Mexico, which

KO COMING?

One way Manny Pacquiao can avoid another controversial decision against Juan Manuel Marquez is to score a knockout. That doesn't seem likely in light of the record. First, Marquez has never been stopped. (Pacquiao was last stopped in 1999.) And Pacquiao's knockout ratio has declined as he has gone up in weight. Here is a two-part breakdown of his record: 108 to 126 pounds compared to 130 to 147 and at each weight in which he has fought. We include wins, losses, knockouts and knockout percentage.

108 TO 126 POUNDS VS. 130 TO 147

108-126
39-2-2 (30) 69.8 percent
130-147
15-2 (8) 47.1 percent

WEIGHT BY WEIGHT
108 – 5-0 (1) 20.0 percent
112 – 11-1 (8) 66.7 percent
115 – 8-1 (6) 66.7 percent
118 – 2-0 (2) 100 percent
122 – 10-0-1 (10) 90.9 percent
126 – 3-0-1 (3) 75 percent
130 – 7-1 (4) 50 percent
135 – 1-0 (1) 100 percent
140 – 1-0 (1) 100 percent
147 – 6-1 (2) 28.6 percent

Note: Pacquiao's fight against Antonio Margarito was at junior middleweight but Pacquiao weighed in at 144½, well below the welterweight limit.

is home to a small community of Filipinos between Acapulco and Mexico City.

"Pacquiao was an idol in Mexico due to his exciting fighting style, a toe-to-toe warrior that resembles great Mexican legends," Balderas said in an E-mail. "Now after the controversial third fight with Marquez, the Mexican people have turned against Pacquiao. They feel he was part of a plot to take the fight away from Marquez. They blame Pacman for the controversy.

"After Manny's loss to Bradley, our people would say that Pacquiao tasted his own medicine, that karma turned against him for what he did to Marquez. I often try to explain that the fighters have nothing to do with the decision, but many fans think otherwise."

Mexican frustration with the scoring against Marquez spilled onto the Internet with photo-shopped images of Pacquiao: a Congressman dressed up like a criminal.

"To the fans, Pacquiao is still a great fighter, a tremendous athlete who just doesn't take boxing too seriously anymore," Balderas says. "But in facing Marquez again in the last chapter of the rivalry, Pacman will be highly motivated and will be at his best.

"…Personally I think that Pacquiao is a little better than Juan. What I mean by this is that I actually had Pacman winning the first fight, a draw in the second fight and Pacquiao winning the third fight by a slim margin. I still think that Marquez is not aggressive enough and gives away rounds by being too careful."

Still, both are talking KO as a way toward resolution of an unresolved rivalry. It is good marketing for a fight that some had feared would be a tough sell for a tired encore. On the first day tickets went on sale, 13,000 of 16,800 were purchased, according to Top Rank promoter Bob Arum.

Knockout promises and lingering controversy often sell themselves. But a hint of possible history is there, too, if the bout winds up being the final chapter in Pacquiao's career.

There's reason to doubt whether either Pacquiao or Marquez can deliver a stoppage. Marquez's ability has always rested in his tactical skill – his ability to adjust and anticipate. Pacquiao became a star because of his knockout prowess, but he hasn't stopped anybody since a 12th-round TKO of Miguel Cotto in November 2009.

What's more, Pacquiao failed to knock out Marquez at weights – feather- and junior-lightweight – when few could withstand his potent blend of power and speed.

At 126 pounds, he fought four times, winning three by stoppage. In the fourth, he floored Marquez three times in the opening round, yet settled for a draw in 2004, their first bout.

At 130 pounds, he fought eight times, winning seven and losing one to Erik Morales. The victories include four stoppages. Against Marquez, Pacquiao won by split decision.

At 140-plus, he has fought eight times, including the controversial loss to Bradley. Seven victories included three stoppages, including one over Oscar De La Hoya. Against Marquez, however, he won by majority decision.

On any scale, the fourth fight doesn't seem to add up to a resolution.

"Personally, I'm a bit scared," Giongco said. "But I have full confidence in (Pacquiao) to finally put a closure to his rivalry with Marquez."

If not a rivalry's closure, maybe a conclusion to a remarkable career. ■

MARQUEZ'S TURN?

JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ HAS BEEN ON THE WRONG END OF THREE DISPUTED DECISIONS. IS IT HIS TIME TO CLAIM VICTORY?

By **Bart Barry**

Last November, Juan Manuel Marquez and Manny Pacquiao stood in the middle of the ring in the MGM Grand Garden Arena after Part III of their historic trilogy. The fight was close but it seemed at that moment that if it were not a draw, Marquez would get the nod. When the final scorecard came in 116-112 – after scores of 115-113 and 114-114 were announced without mentioning names – a brief sense of vindication spread through the building. Yes, a close Marquez win, following a draw in 2004 and a close Pacquiao win in 2008, was as it should be.

When the words that followed the last scorecard were "AND STILL …," when Pacquiao's corner looked suddenly relieved and the partisan-Mexican crowd erupted in boos to drown the words of Pacquiao's post-fight interview, Marquez disgustedly forsook formalities, marched to his dressing room and conducted a televised interview on his terms – contemptuous and naked, a sombrero balanced over his crotch.

"I think that it is a second robbery, a second robbery in our three fights," Marquez said. "And this one was clearer."

Lots of prizefighters, especially Mexicans, express a willingness to die in the ring. Marquez, one senses, would kill there. That is a proper complement to an uncompromising and not particularly charismatic style Marquez and his teacher Nacho Beristain have perfected.

"I feel a sensation of sadness," Beristain said immediately after the third fight. "Humans commit errors, but this is not an error. This is a brazen robbery."

Image: Harry How-Getty

Many believe Juan Manuel Marquez was robbed of a victory in his last fight against Manny Pacquiao.
Image: **Jewel Samad-AFP-Getty Images**

CLOSE CALLS

Manny Pacquiao and Juan Manuel Marquez have fought 36 rounds in three fights yet only seven points separate them on the nine scorecards. The fights were so close that the outcome in all three would've changed had only one judge in each fight scored a single round differently. Here's a look:

DRAW / May 8, 2004
The scores: John Stewart, 115-110 Pacquiao; Burt Clements, 113-113; Guy Jutras, 115-110 Marquez.
The change: Either fighter would've emerged with a split-decision victory had Clements scored one round either way.

PACQUIAO SD 12 / March 15, 2008
The scores: Duane Ford, 115-112 P; Jerry Roth, 115-112 M; Tom Miller 114-113 P.
The change: Marquez would've won split decision had Miller scored one more round for him.

PACQUIAO MD 12 / Nov. 12, 2011
The scores: Dave Moretti 115-113 P; Robert Hoyle 114-114; Glenn Trowbridge 116-112 M.
The change: The fight would've been a majority draw had Moretti scored one more round for Marquez, or a victory either way if Hoyle hadn't seen it even.

Source: boxrec.com.

Marquez, who will face Pacquiao a fourth time on Dec. 8 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, fights his rival with a contempt to which the Filipino congressman is unaccustomed. Pacquiao is polite to his adversaries before matches. He speaks ill of no one. He looks forward to a good fight, one that makes the people "happy" – Pacquiao's favorite word in English – and has trained harder for this fight than any before. Pacquiao, in other words, provides a standard prefight speech and allows his promoter to supply a new narrative.

Before his third fight with Marquez, Pacquiao hawked everything from now-defunct tablet computers to fresh vegetables. He'd not yet undergone a rededication to his Catholic faith, as he did before his decision loss to Timothy Bradley in June, but he was no longer wearing the yellow gloves to eradicate poverty that were part of the promotion for his fight with Shane Mosley, a dull decision victory he scored six months before his rubber match with Marquez.

"Maybe I retire, maybe I continue," Marquez said in his dressing room. "It is difficult to fight against four persons in the ring."

There is a distrust of many things American and Las Vegas in the Marquez camp. Marquez, a pure prizefighter, and Beristain, as pure a trainer as contemporary boxing has, make a contrary and suspicious couple. If they are not certain they decisioned Pacquiao in the first fight, more than eight years ago, their opinion of the matter is hardened by the woods into which Beristain's managerial decisions cast them soon after.

Beristain, when discussing a charge's upcoming fight, employs an interesting term: the transitive Spanish verb obedecer. Literally or figuratively translated, Beristain expects his fighters "to obey" his instructions. Marquez understands that. Their relationship was born of obedience. When the frenzy of blood and concussive blows happens, when a loud humming fills Marquez's ears and his lungs strain for oxygen between championship rounds with the most celebrated prizefighter of his generation – Pacquiao, a man who's knocked him to the blue mat four times – if Marquez hears anything, it is Beristain's voice.

That voice told him one year ago at the MGM to be cautious in the final rounds. And math told Beristain this: Had his charge remained standing for every one of the 72 minutes Marquez swapped blows with Pacquiao in their first two matches, Marquez would have been 2-0 against Pacquiao, and nobody would have cared what fresh vegetables the representative from Sarangani Province favored, because Pacquiao would not be a legendary ring figure or congressman.

If there was tension in the media center at MGM Grand in November 2011, it was a morbid sort. The question was not whether Pacquiao would win, no one doubted that, but rather how quickly he would stop the shopworn and overmatched Marquez – how quickly he would give promoter Bob Arum a scalp

▶ Juan Manuel Marquez has been certain more than once that he did enough to beat Manny Pacquiao only to be surprised by the decision.
Image: **John Gurzinski-AFP-Getty Images**

to toss on the negotiating table in front of Floyd Mayweather Jr. after violently retiring the little old Mexican that Mayweather needed 12 rounds to beat.

But the Friday weigh-in brought a curious spectacle. Structurally, stripped of the musculature Pacquiao had accumulated gradually since 2008 and Marquez had accumulated suddenly since July, the men were the same. Marquez, working with Angel "Memo" Heredia, a strength and conditioning coach once offered immunity from prosecution for alleged drug distribution and son of a Mexico City laboratory owner, had grown quite large in the upper body, particularly his shoulders. If Pacquiao-Marquez III was to be a mismatch, it would be one of reflexes and skill, not size.

It proved exactly that – with Marquez the considerably more skilled prizefighter and Pacquiao the bearer of better, or at least busier, reflexes. Marquez was the rubber match's two-handed fighter, not Pacquiao. Marquez was the man who controlled an opponent with his lead hand, not Pacquiao. To promoters and propagandists, trainer Freddie Roach had wrought a miraculous improvement in Pacquiao's use of the right hook in the Filipino's seven fights since his last controversial victory over Marquez. But to Marquez, and Beristain, Pacquiao was the same wild-swinging southpaw whose leaping left cross was the only punch Marquez needed fear.

"In camp we are going to work harder than we did (last) November," Marquez said about their Dec. 8 meeting. "Harder on speed, and harder on strength and force, so as to knock him out."

In their second fight, Marquez disarmed Pacquiao's left cross by hooking to Pacquiao's right shoulder, spinning the Filipino champion enough to make him reset, allowing Marquez the extra instant he needed to sense the recalibrated punch coming and duck beneath it, sending Pacquiao over his left shoulder. In the third fight, Marquez feinted with the left hook, triggering Pacquiao's left cross, then took a step backward, just out of range.

When he saw how well this worked in the fight's opening stanzas, when he saw in Pacquiao's hesitancy a realization there would be no blowing through the Mexican this night, Marquez became audacious. He began to throw a combination kids in Southwest gyms now call "The Marquez:" left-uppercut lead, right cross. The uppercut lead is as audacious a punch as a prizefighter can throw in a championship match because it must travel quite far, and if missed, leaves its thrower wholly exposed to almost any counter his opponent hurls back. And to throw an uppercut lead at the world's fastest power puncher?

Marquez threw it out of contempt. Marquez put behind that punch nearly a decade of resentment for the celebrity that accrued to Pacquiao instead of him. Pacquiao was unable to believe he was hit by it, and then got touched-up by a right cross for standing there in disbelief. Marquez outboxed Pacquiao for almost the entirety of the second half of their third fight. What rounds Pacquiao won he won with brute activity more than craft. He regressed to form, swimming at Marquez, abandoning the footwork publicists said Freddie Roach had perfected. A beneficiary of most every scoring doubt till his June loss to Timothy Bradley, Pacquiao received more credit than was due from one Las Vegas judge against Marquez last November: Glenn Trowbridge gave Rounds 8, 9, 10 and 11 to Pacquiao before scoring the 12th for Marquez, transposing almost perfectly what actually happened.

Marquez, usually reticent, spoke for a long time in the post-fight press conference. He said the Pacquiao trilogy was now 3-0 in his favor, as he saw it, and this fight proved as much. He'd not fight Pacquiao in Las Vegas ever again. Yet here we are.

"I would have loved to have this (fourth) fight in Mexico," Marquez says. "But the promoters, those of that business, do not think that Mexico is a good place to have this type of fight."

Neither man is the same as he was when their series began. Both are older, slower, stronger and wiser. Pacquiao carries his new weight better. Marquez's thighs have not kept pace with his shoulders; he is top heavy, more likely to tip too far forward, more vulnerable than ever to an uppercut counter. Will Pacquiao throw it? He didn't against Bradley, when a left uppercut was the very punch to yank matters out of the judges' hands. Even that strategy, though, would require Marquez to lose himself a little, to stray from Beristain's instructions and fight without discipline.

Of course, after three meetings, Marquez knows what it takes to fight on at least even terms with Pacquiao.

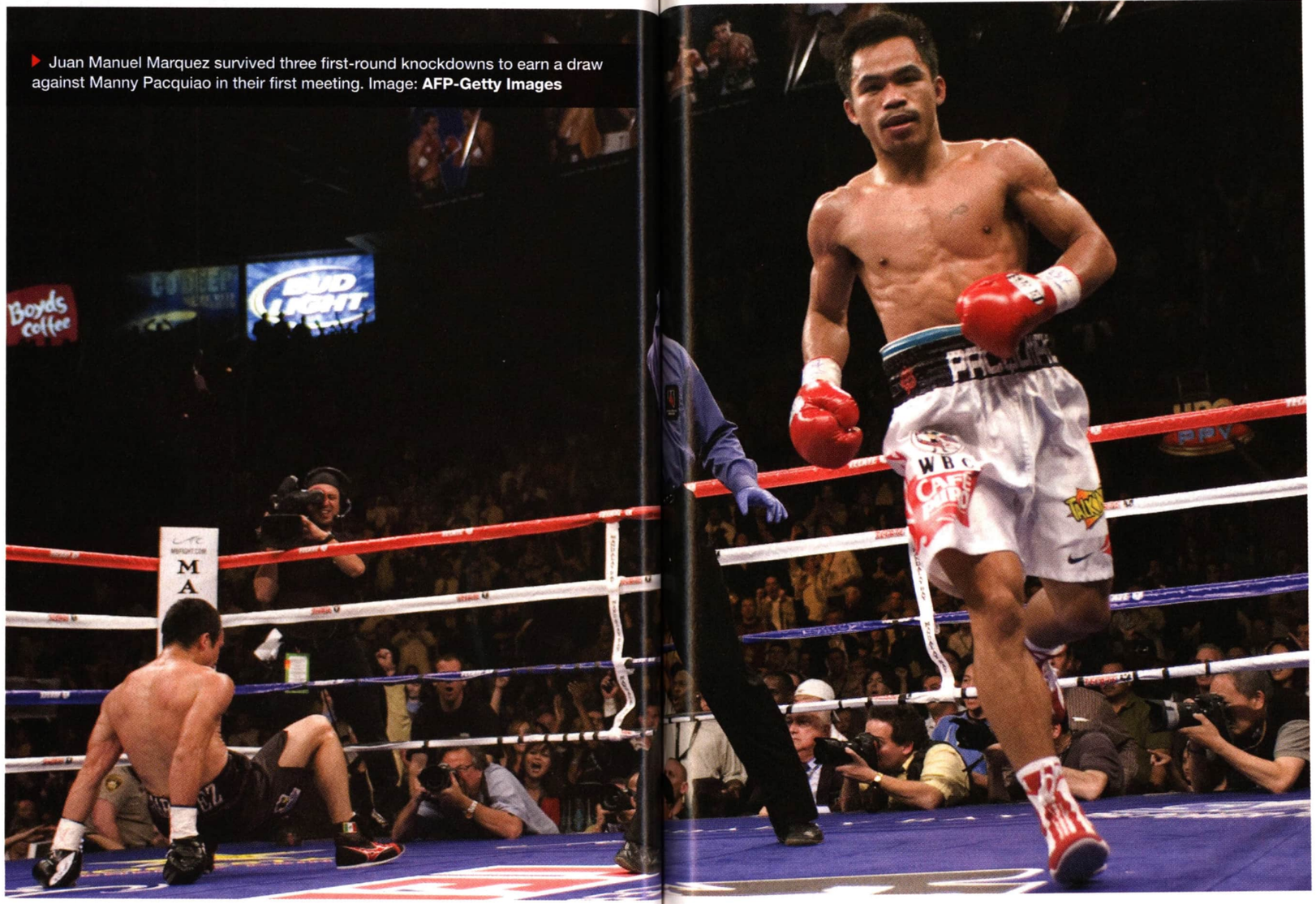
"I'm ready, I'm ready!" Marquez said, using a Spanish expression. "I am … tighter (to this task) than a sock."

Las Vegas is primed for Marquez's vindication. For the first time in all his confrontations with Pacquiao, Marquez will likely meet the opening bell with a slight advantage in the judges' minds. Nothing untoward need happen for them to watch Marquez a little more closely in this fight, or scrutinize whether Pacquiao's punches land effectively by a man who crosses his feet and races past an opponent. A certain exhausted feeling about Pacquiao has set in, too.

"But the only thing … I have fear (of in Las Vegas) are the judges," Marquez says.

This is a fight Marquez alone asked for. Now, at this late hour in both men's careers, comes Marquez's time. If he takes the fight to Pacquiao and takes it from him, Marquez will have his vindication.

"As we say in Mexico," Marquez says, "I have to find that one tiny grain of difference." ■



Juan Manuel Marquez survived three first-round knockdowns to earn a draw against Manny Pacquiao in their first meeting. Image: **AFP-Getty Images**

The fourth fight between rivals Sugar Ray Robinson (left) and Gene Fullmer took place in the twilight of Robinson's great career. Image: **THE RING**

GOING FOURTH

FOURTH MEETINGS BETWEEN RIVALS ARE USUALLY ANTI-CLIMACTIC ... USUALLY

By **Don Stradley**

Top Rank created Manny Pacquiao-Juan Manuel Marquez IV for the same reason Hollywood turns out sequels and remakes: It will probably make money, and it is probably easier than coming up with something new. But tickets for the upcoming bout should be stamped BUYER BEWARE: MANAGEMENT CANNOT PROMISE THAT IV WILL BE AS GOOD AS I, II, or III. This isn't to say that Pacquiao and Marquez aren't capable of entertaining us once again, but fourth bouts tend to be anticlimactic postscripts to otherwise interesting trilogies.

Perhaps the granddad of disappointing fourth bouts involved Ezzard Charles and Jersey Joe Walcott back in 1952. The bout, won by Walcott, drew more than 21,000 to Philadelphia's Municipal Stadium, but was fought as if the fighters had reached an impasse. "There were rounds," wrote Chester Smith of The Pittsburgh Press, "when you thought you might be looking at a yacht race on a day when the wind refused to blow, or a scoreless tie in football when the ball never gets inside the 20-yard line."

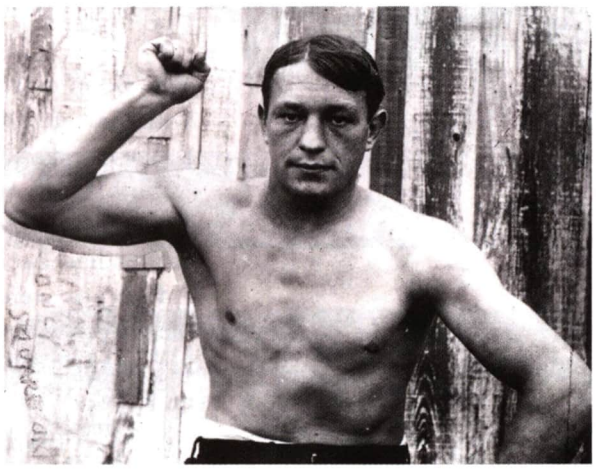
But we don't have to go back to the golden age of television for examples of fourth fight duds. As recently as 2010, Israel Vazquez-Rafael Marquez IV left fans disappointed when a willing but shopworn Vazquez was stopped in three.

Of course, some fourth bouts have been quite memorable. Five are listed here, fights filled with action, drama and controversy. If Pacquiao-Marquez IV can match any of these famous fourths for excitement, then Top Rank's gamble will have paid off.

STANLEY KETCHEL VS. BILLY PAPKE IV

JULY 5, 1909

Mission Street Arena
Colma, Calif.



The fourth meeting of Stanley Ketchel (above left and left) and Billy Papke was described as a "desperate, grueling contest."
Image: **THE RING**

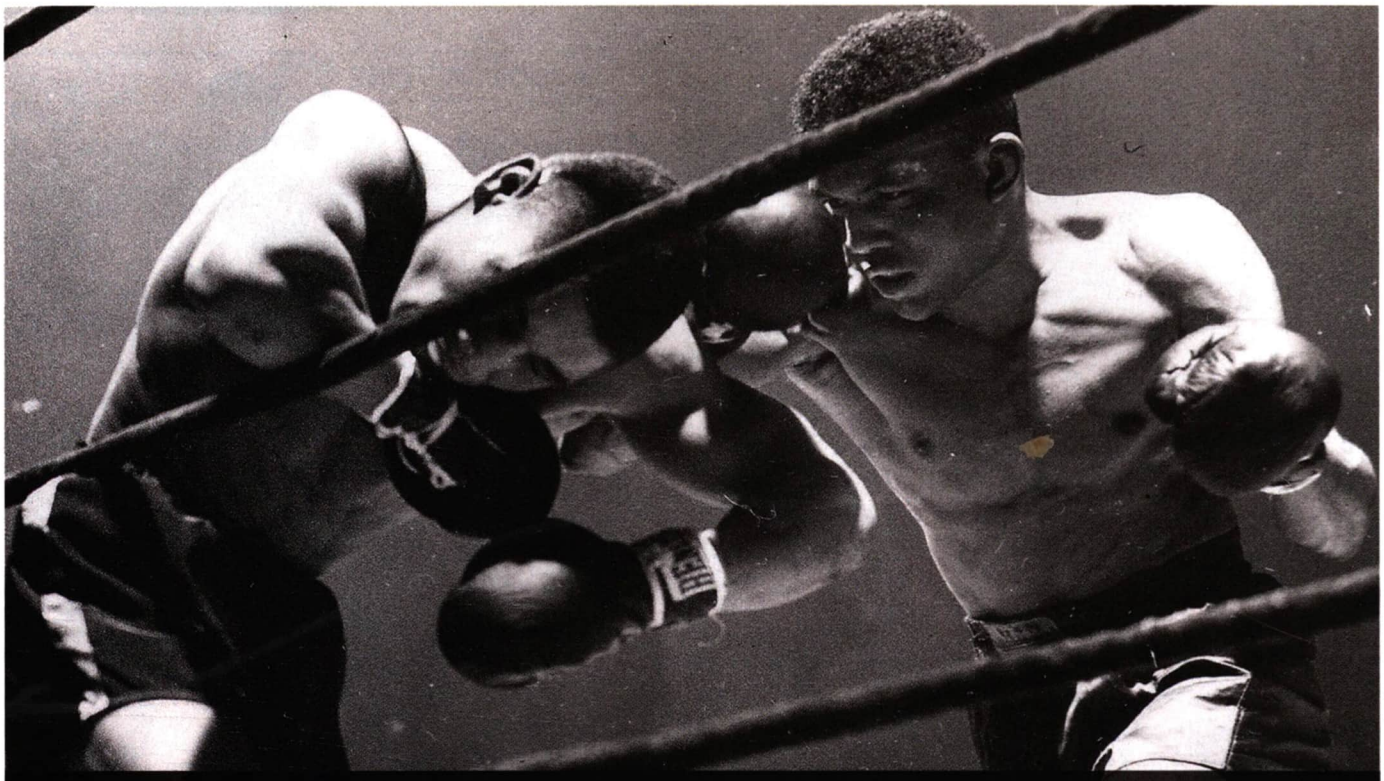
The Ketchel-Papke series was marked by a lawlessness befitting the final days of America's Wild West era, a time not far removed from the days when Bat Masterson and Wyatt Earp occasionally served as referees, and ringsiders were likely to have a gun strapped to their boot.

Although Ketchel, the murderous punching middleweight champion, first defeated Papke in Milwaukee by 10-round decision on June 4, 1908, the blood-feud truly began with their second bout. The phrase "shake hands and come out fighting" allegedly began here, after Papke refused Ketchel's pre-fight handshake and instead bashed Ketchel in the face. Papke claimed his sucker shot was in retaliation for rough tactics Ketchel had used in Milwaukee. Ketchel never quite recovered from the sneak punch, and was beaten savagely until being stopped in the 12th. Two months later, a revenge-minded Ketchel scored an 11th-round KO of Papke to become the first two-time middleweight champion. Papke, who possessed an almost feral dislike of Ketchel, claimed he'd been doped and was soon booked for another run at the title.

As the fourth bout neared, Ketchel wasn't quite as focused as he had been for the third bout. An auto racing enthusiast, Ketchel occasionally broke camp to tool around in his new high-speed roadster, creating a stir days before the bout by driving into a ditch. Adding to Ketchel's distraction was the rumor that he would soon be challenging heavyweight champion Jack Johnson. But if Ketchel was looking beyond Papke, he suffered for it in the ring.

Ketchel-Papke IV was not as historically significant as their second and third bouts, but it was every bit as punishing.A syndicated report described it as a "desperate, grueling contest," highlighted by "the extreme viciousness with which both men fought, and the apparent hatred that lurked behind every punch." Ketchel overcame a broken right hand and dislocated left thumb to win by 20-round decision. Forgotten over the years, possibly because Ketchel biographers couldn't tie it in neatly with Ketchel's legend, is that his win was disputed by some. "Spectators Disagree with Decision," was The New York Times' headline. Oakland columnist Eddie Smith noted, "Had the contest been a 45-round affair, Papke would have won."

There was talk of a fifth bout, but Ketchel opted instead to challenge Johnson. Four times with Papke had been enough.



Beau Jack (left) and Bob Montgomery gave fans one of the better fourth fights in history. Image: **THE RING**

BEAU JACK VS. BOB MONTGOMERY IV

AUG. 3, 1944

Madison Square Garden
New York

The quartet of bouts featuring Jack and Montgomery ended at two wins apiece, combining for 55 rounds without a knockdown. When all scorecards were tallied by rounds for all four bouts, Jack was ahead by a hairpin, 78-77, with 10 rounds even. And there was nary a dull moment the entire time.

The closeness of the bouts was due to the pair's perfect chemistry. Montgomery was a classic boxer-puncher whose right cross seemed designed by scientists bent on creating the perfect weapon. Jack was a screaming whirlwind, all muscular motion and meanness. It was a pairing that went beyond the usual bromides about matadors and bulls, and straight into the realm of big game hunter and fanged, rabid beast. Montgomery won the first bout, Jack the second, Montgomery the third. All were 15-round decisions that saw the lightweight championship go to the winner.

The fourth bout was a non-title affair to benefit the War Bond drive. It turned out to be a lucrative event, with seats going for several times the usual amount and the proceeds going into Uncle Sam's war coffers. On a humid summer night in Gotham, the arena was filled with battle-scarred young war veterans who just weeks earlier had been facing death in Italy and the Pacific. Americans were at their best on this night, with many New Yorkers buying a bond at the ticket window, and giving their tickets away to servicemen who couldn't afford them.

Some suspected Jack-Montgomery IV would pale after the first three bouts since Montgomery's title wasn't at stake and everyone involved in the show was donating their services for free. But Jack and Montgomery could no more hold back than a pair of race horses would be content to merely trot. They picked up right where they had left off, with Montgomery trying to drill Jack with his deadly right hand, and Jack coming forward like a dynamo. Jack piled up an early lead, but Montgomery rallied at the end, bloodying Jack and nearly dropping him. One judge called the bout a draw. The other two scorecards were for Jack.

Called "a torrid 10-round brawl" by the International News Service, Jack-Montgomery IV raised an estimated $35,864,900 for the War Bond drive, smashing all records for boxing gates. Jack remembered the night's patriotic aura for author Peter Heller as "the proudest thing that could happen to me in my life."

SANDY SADDLER VS. WILLIE PEP IV

SEPT. 26, 1951

Polo Grounds
New York

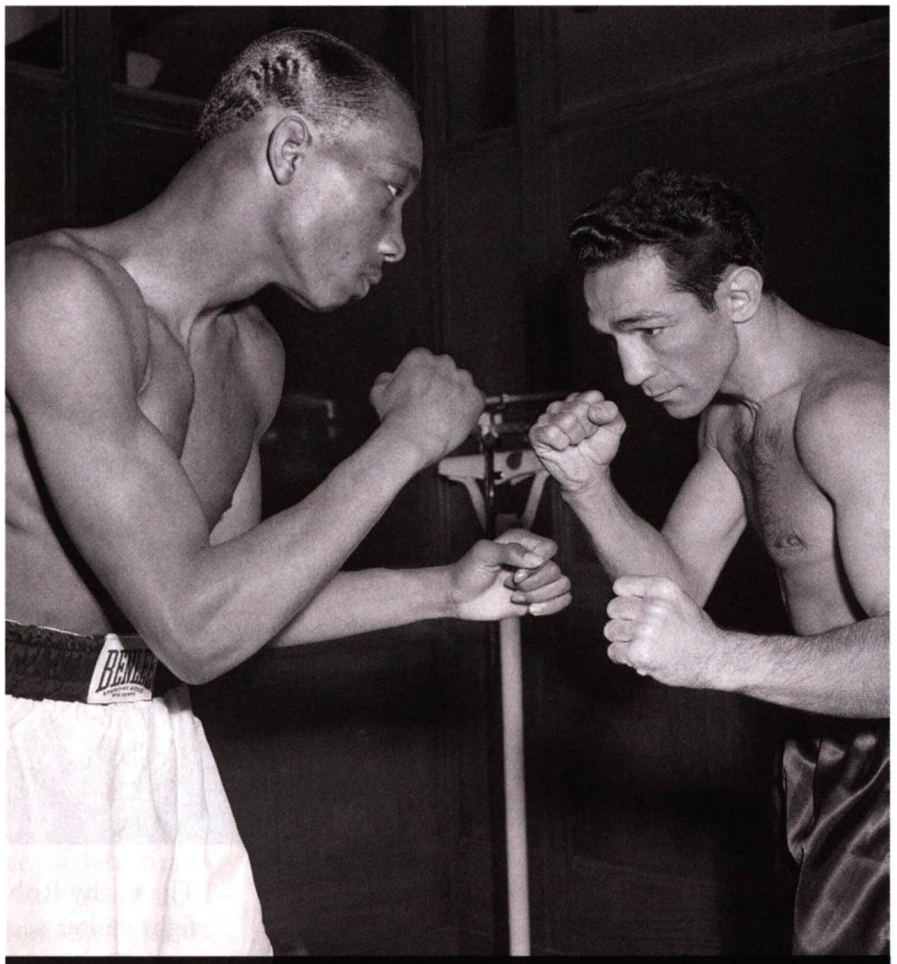
In any listing of four fight In any listing of four-fight rivalries, the wandering eye of history has to wince at Saddler-Pep IV, an unbridled street fight that resulted in Pep's license being revoked, Saddler being suspended and NYSAC commissioner Bob Christenberry's assertion that Pep and Saddler "tended to destroy the reputation of boxing and bring the game into disrepute." But boxing fans couldn't say they didn't see it coming, for the road to Saddler-Pep IV hinted at the debacle to come.

Saddler won the first bout on a fourth-round KO, but his claiming of the featherweight championship was tainted by rumors of a fix. Pep redeemed himself in the rematch, winning a grueling 15-round decision that was chosen as THE RING's Fight of the Year for 1949. Things turned strange during the rubber match, won by Saddler when Pep quit with a shoulder injury, allegedly suffered when Saddler yanked on Pep's arm during a clinch. The way had been paved for the bedlam of the fourth bout, a fiasco that included wrestling, tripping, choking, butting and even kicking.

The roughhousing stemmed from a glaring clash of styles. Saddler, who towered over Pep like in one of those gag photographs of a basketball star and a jockey, knew he had to stay on top of Pep, otherwise the fleet-footed "Will o' the Wisp" would run circles around him. In turn, Pep tried to neutralize Saddler by grabbing his arms. Saddler would retaliate by muscling Pep around, or throwing him to the canvas. Pep later admitted that Saddler's style "made me lose my head," and that he had nursed bitter feelings since being victimized by Saddler's street tactics in the third bout. Pep came into the fourth bout determined to match Saddler foul for foul.

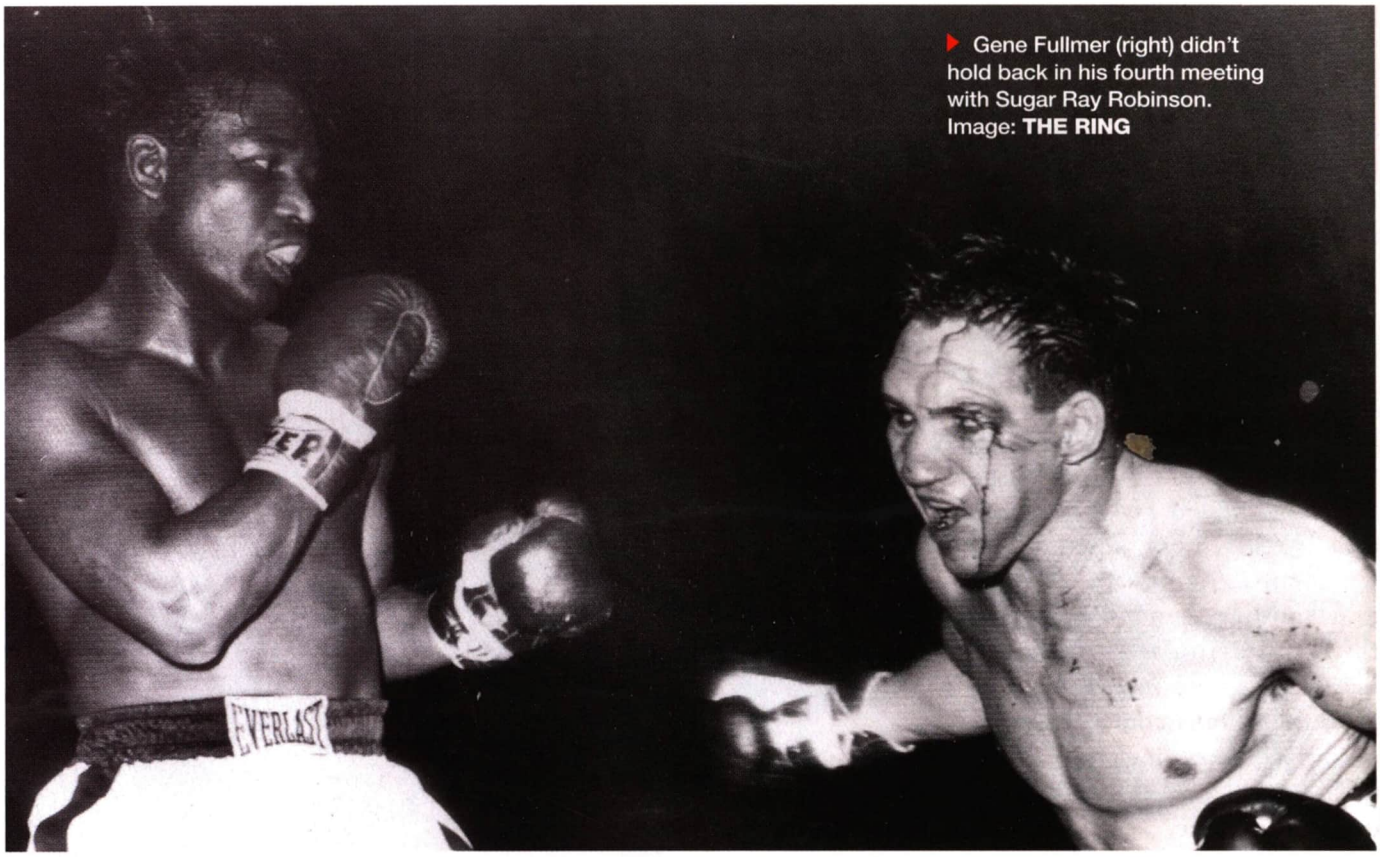
At times the "fight" bordered on the comic, such as when referee Ray Miller tried to separate the grappling duo, and all three ended up on the canvas in a heap. Pep did enough boxing to be slightly ahead on the scorecards after eight rounds but quit in his corner for the second time in the series, this time due to a badly damaged eye.

"We did a few things we weren't supposed to do," Pep said in a 1970 interview. "And people never let us live it down. We were both wrong."



Sandy Saddler (left) and Willie Pep engaged in one of the greatest series ever but their fourth fight was just plain ugly. Image: **THE RING**

"We did a few things we weren't supposed to do. And people never let us live it down. We were both wrong." — Willie Pep, 1970



Gene Fullmer (right) didn't hold back in his fourth meeting with Sugar Ray Robinson. Image: **THE RING**

SUGAR RAY ROBINSON VS. GENE FULLMER IV

MARCH 4, 1961

Convention Center
Las Vegas

Robinson had been looking like an old fighter ever since the crude, plodding Fullmer beat him on points in January 1957 for the middleweight crown. Robinson avenged the loss and reclaimed the title a few months later by stopping Fullmer in five, courtesy of perhaps the most perfectly timed left hook ever thrown. After losing a pair of close bouts to Paul Pender, Robinson found himself on Fullmer's radar again. The rubber match took place in Dec. 1960 and was scored a draw, although most felt Robinson had done enough to win. With Fullmer in possession of the N.B.A.'s middleweight title, a fourth bout seemed a natural, if only because Robinson was still the division's biggest drawing card. Still, many wondered if 39-year-old Robinson was capable of one more miracle comeback.

Although Fullmer opened as an 8-5 betting favorite, the odds shifted when Robinson's first public workout attracted more than 1,000 spectators, including many show business types and chorus girls. The flashy Robinson and the glitz of boxing's newest fight center seemed a perfect match, but not all was well. Robinson wanted a bigger ring for the fight, and threatened a walkout unless his demands were met. While Robinson dickered with Nevada officials, Fullmer trained solemnly, claiming he'd held back in their third fight and wouldn't give Robinson room to breathe this time.

Fullmer stayed true to his word, dominating the early part of the fight with an interpretation of the "sweet science" that seemed handed down by the Neanderthal Man. He was especially effective in the third, clubbing Robinson along the ropes. Not hearing the buzzer to end the round, Fullmer kept up his attack until Robinson's handlers jumped into the ring to whisk their man back to his corner. Still, Robinson rebounded and fought Fullmer evenly for many of the bout's 15 hard rounds. By the end, Fullmer's left eye was socked shut while Robinson, although bone-weary, was still the embodiment of Harlem cool. When the ring announcer named Robinson as the winner by unanimous decision, the great fighter's corner men began celebrating wildly, hoisting Robinson up onto their shoulders.

Unfortunately for Ray, the announcer had made a mistake. The bout had actually been scored for Fullmer. The twilight of Robinson's career had just grown a bit darker.

BOBBY CHACON VS. RAFAEL "BAZOOKA" LIMON IV

DEC. 11, 1982

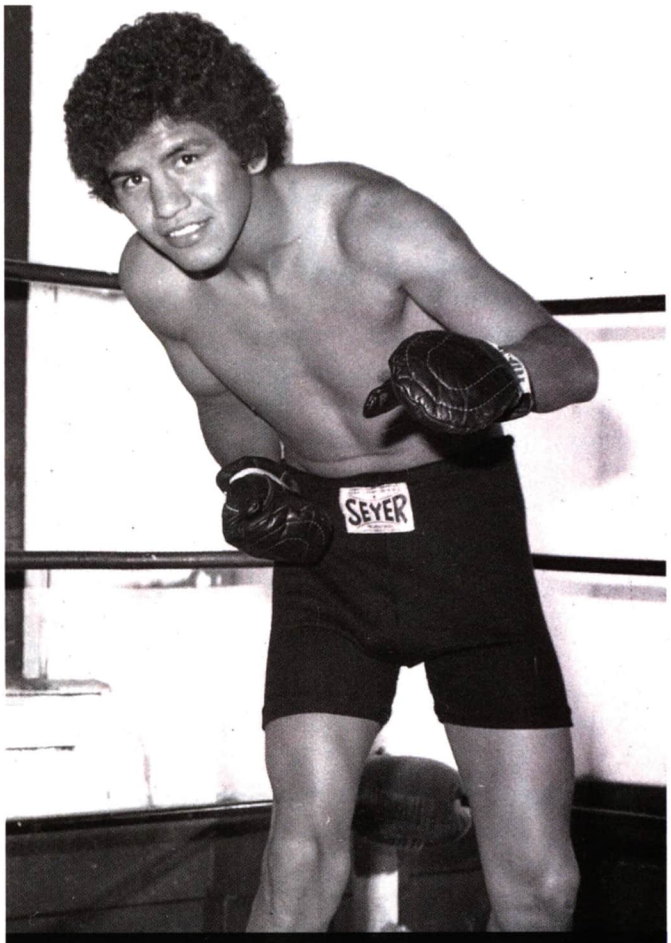
Memorial Auditorium
Sacramento, Calif.

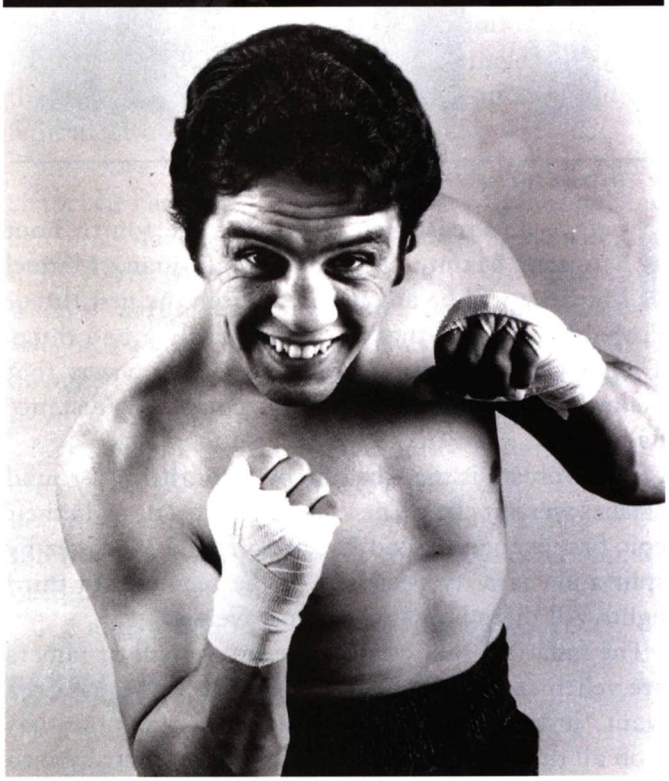
Although the gallant Chacon and the free-swinging Limon had provided some decent action in their first three bouts, there didn't seem to be any need for a fourth serving. They first met in Dec. 1975, Limon winning a 10-round decision. A 1979 rematch was declared a technical draw after Limon suffered a nasty cut from a collision of heads. Fight number three took place in 1980 and was a split 10-round decision for Chacon.

Then something unexpected happened – Limon won the WBC junior lightweight title in 1982. Limon had enjoyed a brief run as titleholder a year earlier, but a loss to Cornelius Boza Edwards had killed his momentum. Now he was back on top. As for Chacon, he was in position for a title shot. It seemed destined that these two colorful battlers would meet again.

Before a small Sacramento audience of less than 4,000, Chacon-Limon IV unfurled like a vibrant and violent mural. Chacon found himself behind on points after hitting the canvas in Rounds 3 and 10, but he roared to life during the "championship rounds," firing right leads like a piston. Chacon had frittered away his own featherweight title years earlier, partying instead of training, and had failed in two previous attempts at the 130-pound title. He had also been through his share of personal troubles, including the suicide of his wife. On this day, however, Chacon fought as if he were trying to regain all he had lost. With only 15 seconds left in the 15th and final round, Chacon unloaded one last barrage that dumped Limon on the canvas. Limon, exhausted and nearly defenseless, was saved by the bell. The scorecards read 143-141, 141-140, and 142-141, all for Chacon.

Chacon-Limon IV would be chosen as THE RING's Fight of the Year for 1982, a rather glum time that had featured the retirement of Ray Leonard, an accusation that Aaron Pryor had cheated during a fight, the accidental death of Salvador Sanchez and the televised ring death of Duk Koo Kim. Chacon-Limon IV served as a last-minute salve that healed many of the sport's wounds. It also showed that a fourth bout could sometimes exceed what two fighters had done before. It is the greatest of all fourth bouts.





Bazooka Limon (above) and Bobby Chacon (below) proved that fourth fights could be as entertaining as any of the previous three. Image: **THE RING**

HOW IV CAN BE DIFFERENT FROM I II III

By **Doug Fischer**

Is there any reason to think that the fourth bout between Manny Pacquiao and Juan Manuel Marquez will be any different from the first three? Probably not. And that's not necessarily a bad thing. Their styles and ring mentalities mesh in a way that makes for entertaining, hotly contested distance fights.

The problem is that the outcomes of their 12-round clashes weren't clear. The two fought to a draw in their epic first encounter, and Pacquiao edged Marquez by split and majority decisions in the second and third fights. All three bouts were controversial.

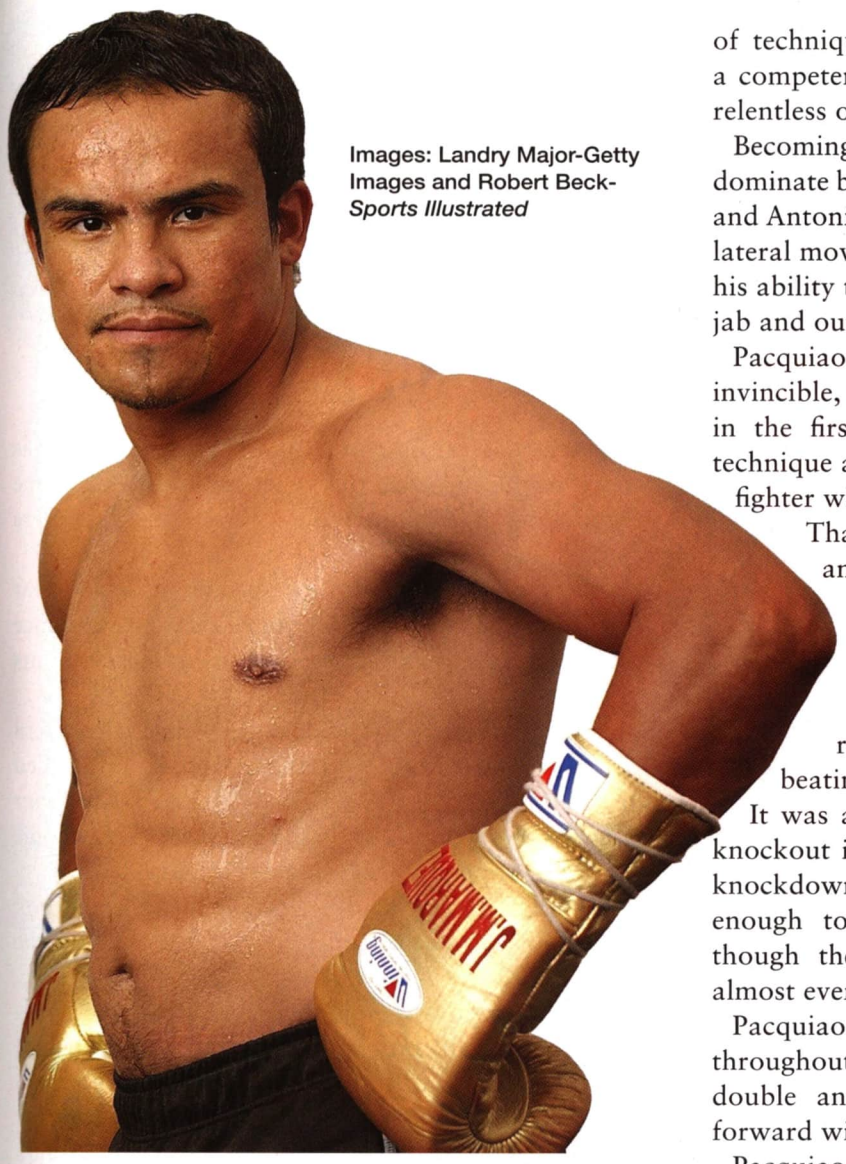
The fanatical followers of the future hall of famers are vehemently divided on the subject. Marquez fans want "justice" for their man, who they maintain has won all three bouts. Pacquiao fans want their hero to score a knockout and finally silence the Mexico City native's fans and critics in the media.

Is either scenario possible? Can Marquez, now 39, find a way to get over the hump? Does Pacquiao, who has looked disinterested in recent bouts, possess the fire to finally break down the proud Mexican veteran?

Yes, we could finally get a decisive outcome. But before going into how, one should understand why neither fighter can get the better of the other.

Marquez troubles Pacquiao because he is a superior boxer, technician and ring general. But those aren't the only reasons he gives the Filipino icon fits. Marco Antonio Barrera was smarter and more skillful than Pacquiao but he couldn't compete with the frenetic southpaw.

Marquez pushes Pacquiao to the limit because he has the right mix of smarts, technique, durability and heart. He doesn't try to press Pacquiao, but he won't back up either. Marquez is tough enough to recover from Pacquiao's best shots, even if he's dropped. And



Images: Landry Major-Getty Images and Robert Beck-*Sports Illustrated*

he always fires back when he's hurt. In other words, he earns Pacquiao's respect without being too reckless.

Pacquiao has a decided edge in natural talent – he's faster, punches harder and has quicker reflexes. He's able to outmaneuver, outwork and hurt Marquez at different points of their fights without even thinking about it. Being the more active and athletic of the two, Pacquiao catches the eyes of the official judges a little more than his arch rival.

So what can they do to break out of this pattern?

The simple answer has more to do with their ring identities than any strategy. Both fighters must go back to being what they were before their trilogy took place. They must return to the essence of what made them special in their youth.

PACQUIAO MUST ...

Pacquiao must reassume his puncher's mentality. He hasn't just added pounds to what used to be a featherweight frame over the years. He's added layers of technique – as well as improved footwork and a competent defense – to what was once a blazing, relentless offense.

Becoming a complete fighter enabled him to dominate bigger, stronger men – such as Miguel Cotto and Antonio Margarito – but adding feints, a jab and lateral movement to his arsenal only took away from his ability to repeatedly hurt Marquez, who will out-jab and out-think him every day of the week.

Pacquiao must revert to the mindset that he is invincible, the mindset that led him to fight Marquez in the first place. He must forget about boxing, technique and strategy and be the hungry, passionate fighter who decimated Barrera in 2003.

That fearless version of Pacquiao lived and died by his powerful left hand. He committed fully to this punch because it was all he had, and it was enough to win major titles at flyweight and junior featherweight, as well as THE RING's recognition as featherweight champ (for beating Barrera).

It was almost enough to earn an opening-round knockout in the first bout with Marquez. The three knockdowns he scored in that dramatic round were enough to prevent Marquez from winning even though the master boxer outclassed Pacquiao in almost every other round.

Pacquiao landed his lightning-fast left sporadically throughout their nip-and-tuck rematch, but he didn't double and triple it. He didn't continually step forward with it and let it go with abandon.

Pacquiao held it back even more in their third bout, the only fight he didn't score a knockdown. And the fight most observers thought Marquez deserved.

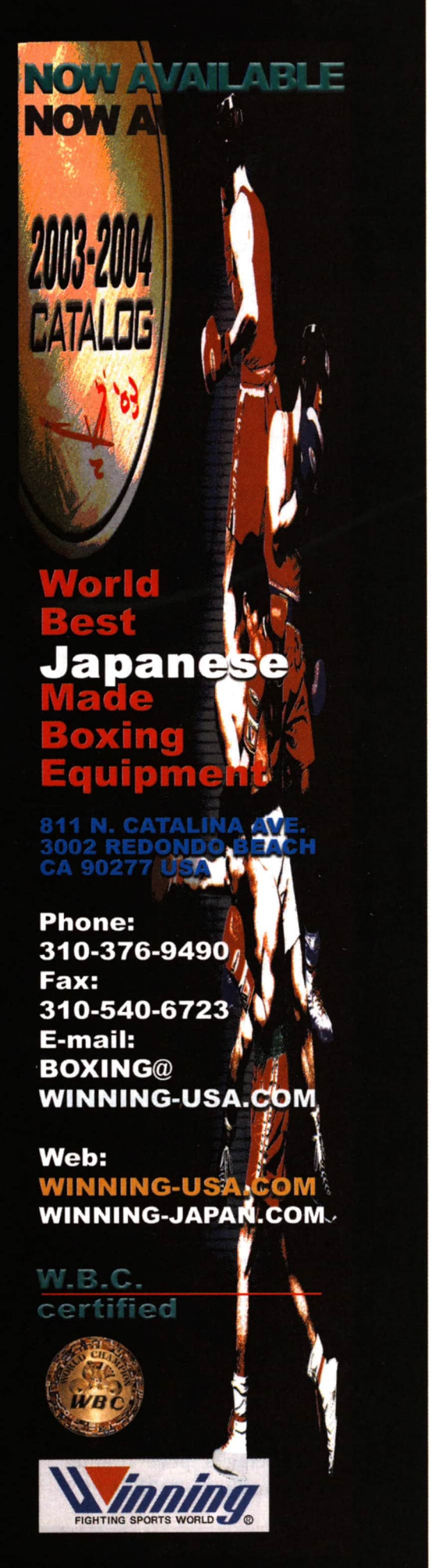
The more Pacquiao fires his straight left the better chance he has of speeding up the tempo of the fight and catching Marquez. Whenever he does this, especially if he hurts Marquez, he appeals to the Mexican's warrior nature and the master boxer momentarily falls into a good old-fashioned scrap. That's the kind of fight Pacquiao can dominate – perhaps even win by knockout.

It's a gamble. If Pacquiao totally commits to his offense he will get clipped by Marquez. And make no mistake, Marquez can hurt Pacquiao. But in 36 rounds, who was it who hit the canvas four times? Pacquiao can win this gamble.

In a nutshell: Go for it, damn the consequences.

MARQUEZ MUST ...

Marquez must go back to being a pure counter puncher. That's the key to dominance.



For the fourth bout, Marquez must stifle the fierce pride and warrior spirit that eventually won over fans who used to ignore him in favor of Erik Morales and Barrera.

Once the epitome of a calculating counter puncher, Marquez has relaxed his defensive technique over the years and evolved (some purists would say he's "devolved") into one of the sport's premiere action fighters.

It's hard to believe that the man who gave us fight-of-the-year candidates against Juan Diaz and Michael Katsidis was once considered a stinker. He often made for uneventful distance bouts during his prime.

Back then he was patient, economical – yet surgical – with his punches. He never overextended himself. Boring, one-sided decisions over Orlando Salido and Victor Polo after his first bout with Pacquiao caused many insiders to declare that he had become "gun shy" after his first-round scare against the Pacman.

But that careful boxing is what enabled him to clearly outbox Pacquiao in the first fight, which he would have won without the three knockdowns.

The third-round knockdown in their rematch was the difference in that fight. It probably would not have occurred had Marquez stuck to being a counter puncher. But after controlling the tempo with his jab and counter right hand in the first two rounds, Marquez strayed from his winning formula. He rocked Pacquiao with a cross-hook combination at the bell of the second round and he started taking chances in the third.

Marquez was encouraged to step forward after landing a lead right midway through the third round. But the more he exchanged with Pacquiao, the more he opened himself up to the Filipino's vaunted left, which dropped him flat on his back near the end of the round.

For the fourth bout, Marquez must stifle the fierce pride and warrior spirit that eventually won over fans who used to ignore him in favor of Erik Morales and Barrera. He might get booed by those same fans if he resists the temptation to beat Pacquiao into submission, but doing so could make the fight easy.

It's a gamble. Unless your last name is Mayweather or Bradley, Nevada judges do not typically reward defense and ring generalship. But Marquez has had three camps and 36 rounds to prepare for this final confrontation.

Nobody knows how to time and counter Pacquiao as well as he does. If he just sticks to doing that, he'll win too many rounds for any judge to deny him the victory he and his fans want so much.

In a nutshell: Don't be greedy, be smart. ■

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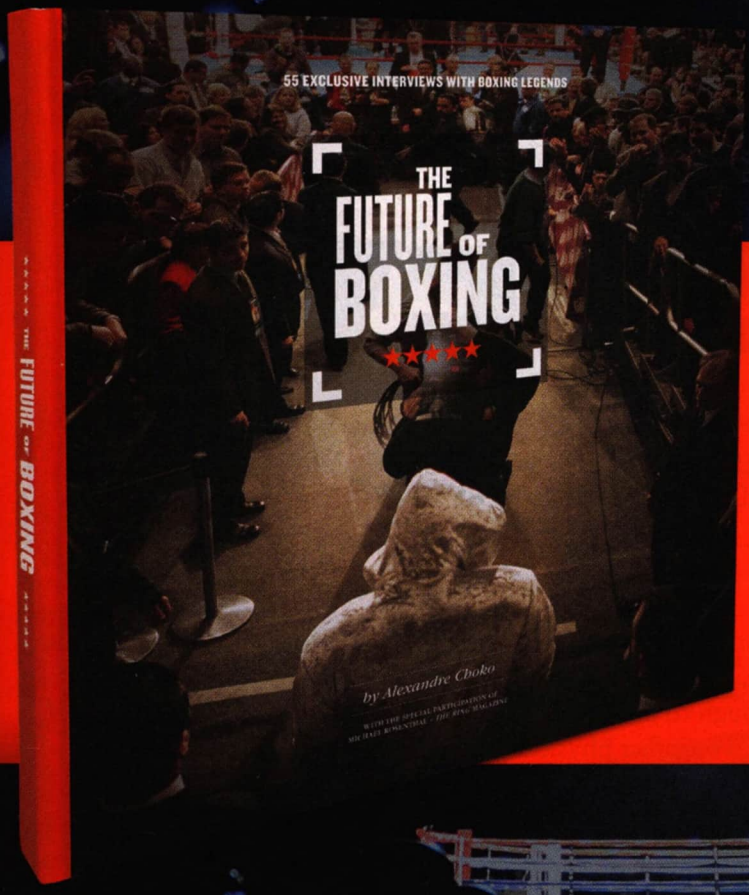

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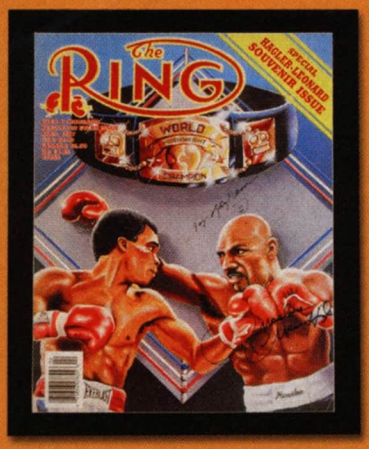


Framed giant cover of *The Ring Magazine* from April 1987, with a certificate of authenticity by the International Boxing Hall of Fame

LONGEST JOURNEY

AFTER NEARLY TWO DECADES OF INTROSPECTION, FIGHTER ORLANDO CRUZ ACKNOWLEDGED PUBLICLY THAT HE'S GAY

By **Bernard Fernandez**

It has been said that the trip from a boxer's dressing room to the ring is the longest, at least figuratively, for any athlete.The rationale for that school of thought is simple enough to understand: In the ring awaits a gloved opponent with the potential to inflict physical pain upon even the most prohibitive of favorites. An element of fear is any fighter's constant companion and a useful tool if properly controlled. Anyone who takes up boxing and has absorbed a hard smack to the nose would be foolish to suggest otherwise.

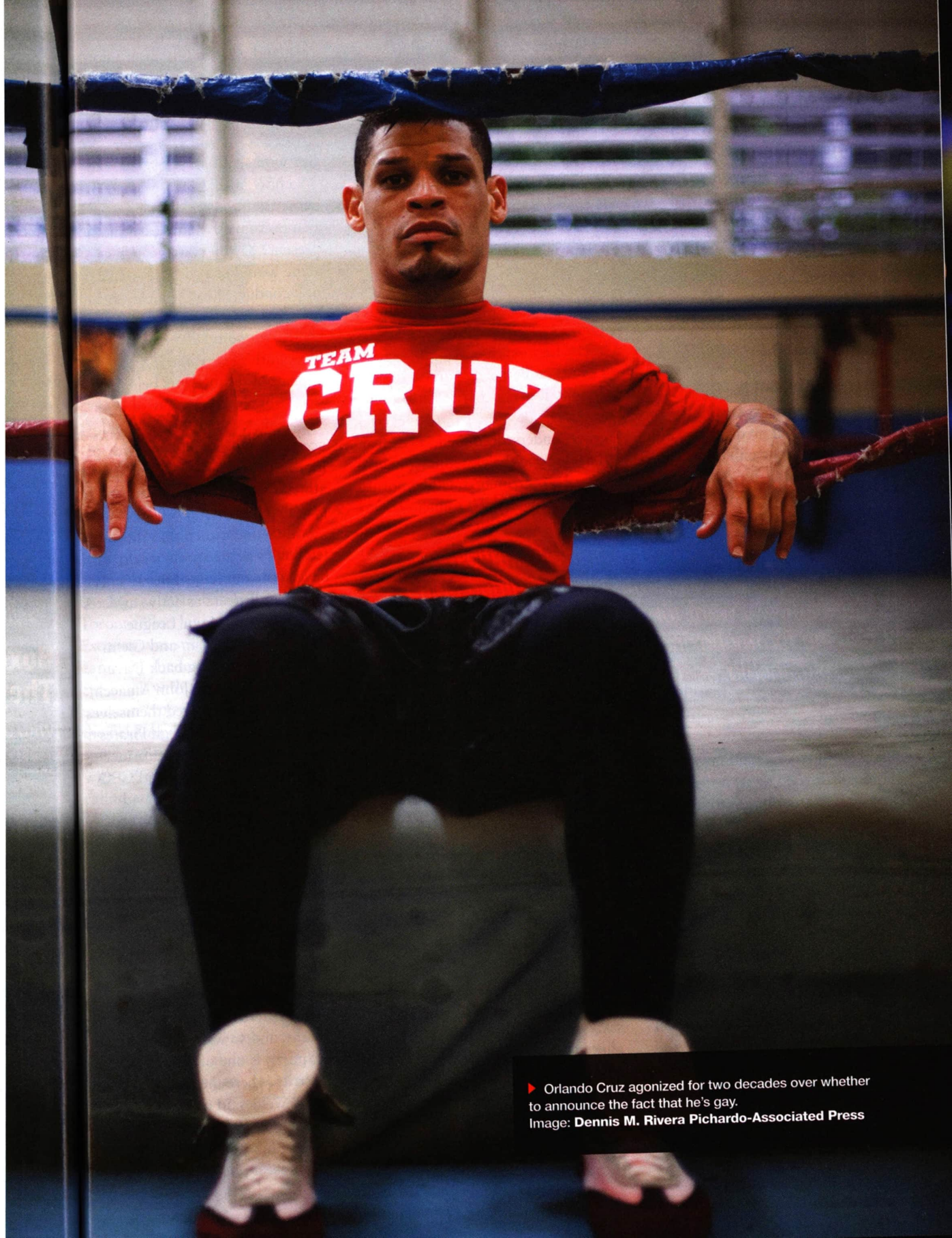
But there is a longer, more emotionally wrenching journey that seldom is taken by professional athletes in any sport, and almost never by boxers. It is the path that featherweight contender Orlando Cruz, after nearly two decades of introspection, chose to undertake in early October, when he stepped out of the darkness of the closet into the glare of public scrutiny.

As the first openly gay and active pro fighter, Cruz, who is the World Boxing Organization's fourth-rated 126-pounder, has been hailed as a hero by homosexuals and heterosexuals who believe that the time has come to put an end to long-held stigmas that prevent individuals from acknowledging who and what they are. Isn't it better and more honest to be true to yourself than to perpetrate an image that is false and misleading for the sake of what others consider socially acceptable?

"Me being the first active professional boxer to publicly acknowledge my (sexual orientation) might help others to do the same," said Cruz, who easily outpointed Jorge Pazos on Oct. 19, his first fight after his announcement. "I don't know why others haven't spoken up before. Maybe they're scared to do that. Maybe they feel that (by coming out) they somehow won't be respected."

Somewhere between 2 and 8 percent of the worldwide population is homosexual or bisexual, depending on what sources and studies you accept. And while laws have been passed in the United States and other nations to ensure that gays are not discriminated against, there are many countries where they continue to be persecuted and religions that still hold their sexual predilections to be sinful.

Cruz, 31, does not necessarily consider himself a hero, as some have stated, for no longer attempting to conceal what those within his family and



Orlando Cruz agonized for two decades over whether to announce the fact that he's gay.
Image: **Dennis M. Rivera Pichardo-Associated Press**

boxing team have long known. He said, "I'm happy now. I'm relaxed. People in Puerto Rico (his homeland), and internationally, have been very supportive. Ninety-five percent of them respect my decision."

But even if Cruz's unscientific calculations are accurate, that leaves 5 percent of fight fans who will snicker behind his back, call him rude and demeaning names, or worse. The world we live in now may in some ways be more enlightened than the one our parents and grandparents knew, but hate and ignorance have been part of the fabric of mankind since our Neanderthal predecessors did battle with saber-tooth cats and wooly mammoths for dominion over the Earth. The world we live in now may in some ways be more enlightened than the one our parents and grandparents knew, but hate and ignorance have most likely been a part of mankind's fabric since the beginning.

"I don't want to hide any of my identities. ... I want people to look at me for the human being that I am. ... I want for people to continue to see me for my boxing skills, my character, my sportsmanship. — Orlando Cruz

In Puerto Rico and throughout the Latino community, the virtues of machismo are revered and celebrated. A man's man supposedly is duty-bound to adhere to accepted societal strictures, and foremost among those is the notion that a guy who is sexually attracted to another guy is a sissy, a fairy, a faggot, a maricon.

It is curious that Cruz's revelation comes 50 years after the most notorious incident in boxing to illustrate the intolerance that gays, even those merely suspected of being homosexual, routinely encountered. At the weigh-in prior to their March 24, 1962, rubber match in Madison Square Garden, an incensed Emile Griffith, a native of the U.S. Virgin Islands, had to be restrained from going after Cuba's Benny "Kid" Paret for calling him a maricon even though it was widely rumored within the boxing community that Griffith was indeed homosexual, or at least bisexual.

The fury exhibited by Griffith in battering Paret into unconsciousness in the 12th round, and a few days later into an early grave, underscored the level of fear that those in the closet must have felt when threatened with exposure. To be gay was to be somehow perceived as a lesser human being, more subject to contempt than acceptance.

In a story about Griffith in its April 18, 2005, edition, Sports Illustrated acknowledged that it would have been "career suicide" for any athlete or celebrity (such as actor Rock Hudson) during the 1960s to admit to being gay.

Griffith, who years after his retirement from boxing was savagely beaten by a gang of men, allegedly after leaving a gay bar, has continued to be less forthcoming about the particulars of his sexual identity than has Cruz. "I've chased men and women," Griffith rather coyly told SI's Gary Smith. "I like men and women both. But I don't like that word: homosexual, gay or faggot. I don't know what I am. I love men and women the same, but if you ask me which is better ... I like women."

So how far have we, as a people, come from the gay-bashing past to a presumably more tolerant present? Maybe not as much as some would like to believe. In a poll conducted for NBC Universal's USA Network, which televised the award-winning 2005 documentary of Griffith's life, Ring of Fire, 44 percent of respondents believed that "homosexual behavior is a sin." A third said society should not accept homosexuality as a way of life, and 14 percent believed gay athletes should not be permitted to play team sports.

Little wonder then that those few males in the sports world who have come out have done so only after their careers as active athletes ended: former Major League outfielders Billy Bean and Glenn Burke, NFL running back Dave Kopay, NBA player John Amaechi. Others who have outed themselves include former Pittsburgh Pirates owner Kevin McClatchy, former Phoenix Suns president and CEO Rick Welts and soccer's David Testo. Interestingly, women appear to be less reticent about revealing their sexual preferences. Tennis players Billie Jean King, Martina Navratilova and Amelie Mauresmo, basketball players Sheryl Swoopes and Seimone Augustus and boxer Christy Martin are among those who have admitted that, yes, they are lesbians, and so what of it?

"(Sports) is one of the last industries where the subject is off-limits," Welts said of his disclosure. "Nobody's comfortable in engaging in a conversation. But to paraphrase a popular axiom, 'If not

▶ Orlando Cruz has won three consecutive fights since losing to Cornelius Lock (pictured here) and Daniel Ponce de Leon.
Image: **Gabriel Bouys-AFP-Getty Image**

now, when? If not you, who?'"

Cruz no doubt is correct. Those athletes who share his lifestyle, and maybe especially boxers, probably are afraid to run the risk of public backlash by stepping forward. During the 2012 baseball season, Toronto Blue Jays shortstop Yunel Escobar was suspended for three games by the team for wearing eye-black with the phrase Tu ere maricon (you are a faggot) on the field. And Los Angeles Lakers superstar Kobe Bryant was socked with a $50,000 fine by the NBA for calling a referee a "faggot."

One reader posting anonymously on a boxing web site after Cruz revealed his sexual identity hinted at what the fighter might expect from dissenters as he moves forward with his career. "A playa knows when a dude has sugar in his tank," the poster wrote. "It is something that is just innate. When a cat is twisting instead of struttin', you already know. Gays have a distinction that can be noted ... OC is the latest-trying-to-get-attention clown."

If there seems to be marginally more athletes willing to admit to their own homosexuality, it could owe less to the widening acceptance of gays into mainstream society than to the belief that it is better for a gay athlete to make the announcement himself than to have an outside source do so. Benjamin Franklin once wrote that "Three can keep a secret, if two of them are dead," and that has never been more the case than in this era of satellite communications, cell-phone cameras and tell-all outlets willing to pay for the invasion of someone's privacy.

"I don't want to hide any of my identities," Cruz said in the prepared statement he released to the media to announce his exit from the closet. "I want people to look at me for the human being that I am. ... I want for people to continue to see me for my boxing skills, my character, my sportsmanship. But I also want kids who suffer from bullying to know that you can be whoever you want to be in life, including a professional boxer, that anything is possible and that who you are or whom you love should not be an impediment to achieving anything in life."

To their credit, other Puerto Rican boxers, most notably Miguel Cotto (Cruz's 2000 Olympic teammate) and Ivan Calderon, have publicly supported Cruz's decision to stop living a part of his life in the shadows. There are many manifestations of courage, some so obviously evident inside the ropes, where heart and determination can mean the difference between victory and defeat, and some that come with the strength to peel off any disguise and say, "This is who I am."

But what if some would-be opponent, maybe even a reigning world champion, refuses to fight Cruz because of fear or animosity or ignorance? What then?

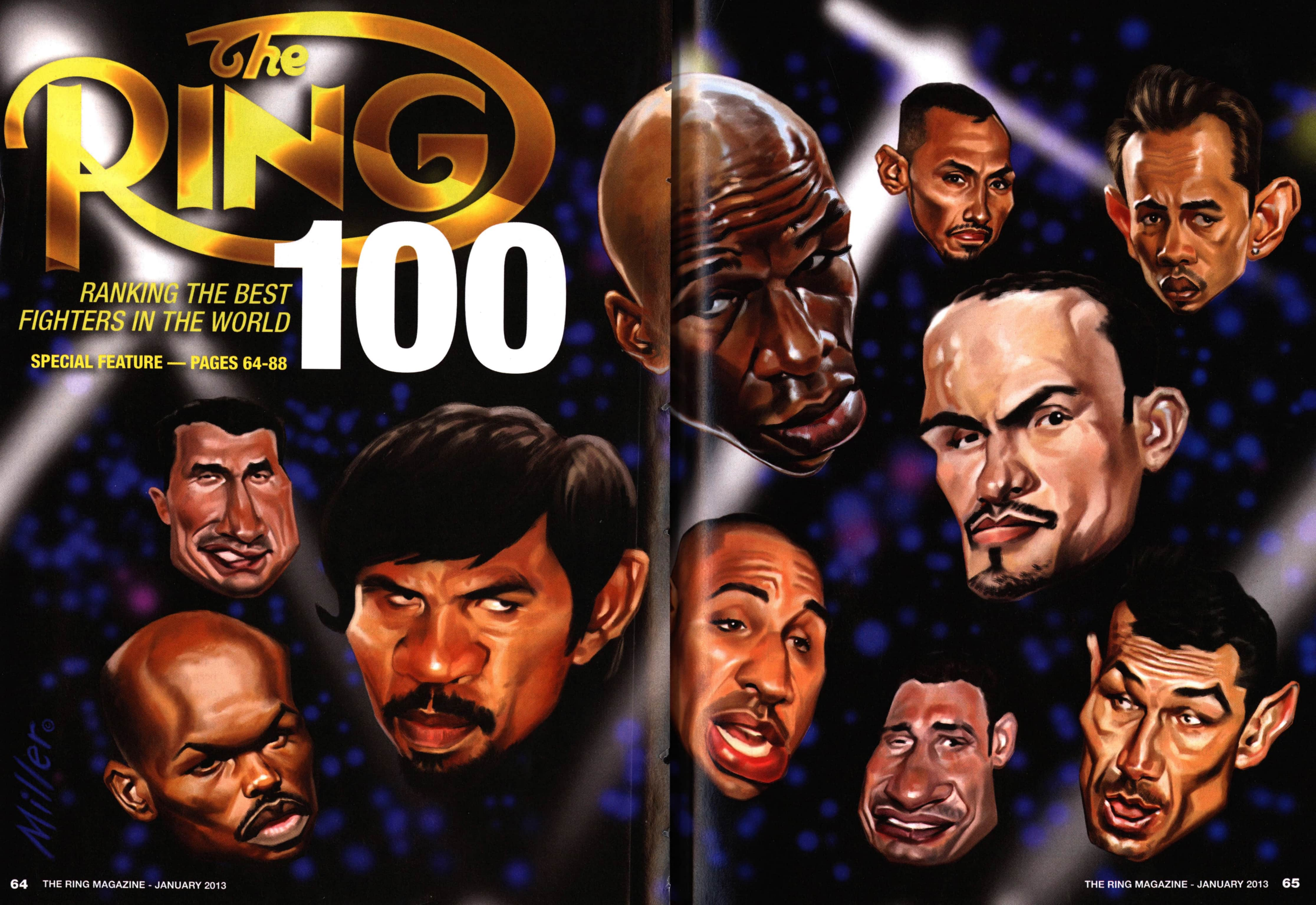
"I don't have HIV," an adamant Cruz declared. "I'm not sick. I've been tested. I will continue to be tested. That is important. There is nothing for anyone to be afraid of."

Except, maybe, for the skills which Orlando Cruz (18-2-1, 9 knockouts) has always brought to his profession, and will continue to bring so that everyone knows he is the same fighter – the same person – he was before he made history with words instead of punches. ■

The RING 100

RANKING THE BEST FIGHTERS IN THE WORLD

SPECIAL FEATURE — PAGES 64-88



OUR 17th ANNUAL RANKINGS

RING 100 compiled by Anson Wainwright / Illustration by Stanley Miller

The task of compiling the annual RING 100 is a monster. The earnest Anson Wainwright of Wales, who accepted the job this year, is well aware of that now.

Wainwright began the process with a wealth of knowledge, which is why he was hired for the job. He lives and breathes boxing, from the heavyweight division down to the littlest practitioners of the sport. He knows his stuff.

You could ask him about strawweight Akira Yaegashi and he could tell you off the top of his head why Yaegashi was able to beat Pornsawan Porpramook but came up just short against Kazuto Ioka in his next fight. Yes, Anson has too much time on his hands.

That doesn't mean the process of selecting the 100 best fighters in the world – and ranking them in order – is easy. It takes days of hard work, with input from know-it-all RING editors and guest guru Martin Mulcahey complicating the job even further.

The Top 20? Fairly simple. We all know who the very best fighters are. (By the way, we acquiesced to Anson's request to make Floyd Mayweather Jr. No. 1 in conflict with our official rankings because this is his list.) The process gets more and more complicated as you move toward 100, though.

You ask yourself questions like, "Should Josesito Lopez be included because he happened to break the jaw of Victor Ortiz?" "And what about Antonio Tarver, who looked pretty good against Lateef Kayode but then failed his drug test?"

And even the most-basic questions can eat at you: "Should Yuriorkis Gamboa be in the Top 20 because of his talent or dropped lower on the list because he hasn't fought since Castro seized power in Cuba? (He landed at No. 19.)

Alas, Anson came up with what we feel is a good list for our 17th Annual RING 100. Is it perfect? That's not possible because no two people will agree on something that is inherently so subjective.

In fact, the beauty of it is that there is no right and wrong. The idea is to lay it out as best we can and then let you argue about the results. If we push your buttons – and provide a little fun – then we've realized our goal.

Enjoy.

— *Michael Rosenthal*

Anson Wainwright is a member of THE RING Ratings Panel and covers boxing for MaxBoxing.com. He can be reached at elraincoat@live.co.uk. Follow him on Twitter at @AnsonWainwright.

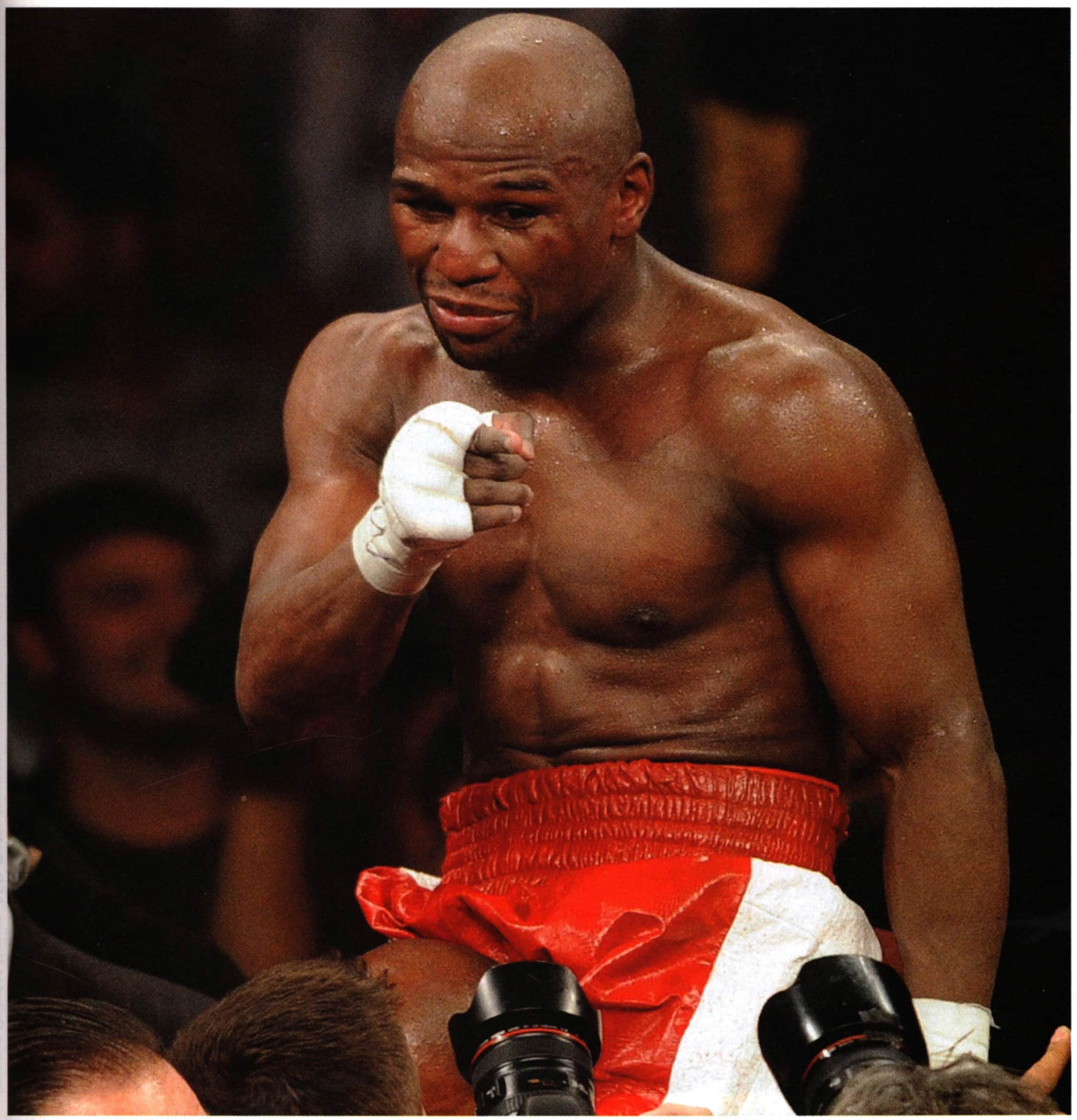


Image: Naoki Fukuda

1 FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.

DIVISION: Welterweight/junior middleweight (WBC/WBA titleholder)
RECORD: 43-0 (26 knockouts)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 2
STATUS REPORT: Was forced to dig deeper than we're used to seeing but still had more than enough to hold off Miguel Cotto in a unanimous-decision victory in May.
FUTURE: No plans at press time. Enjoying time off with his family after his two-month stay in prison. The boxing world holds out hope that he'll finally meet rival Manny Pacquiao in the coming year.
THINK ABOUT IT: Top earning athlete in the world in 2012, believed to be around $85 million, according to *Forbes* Magazine.

Image: Gabriel Bouys-AFP-Getty Images

2 MANNY PACQUIAO

DIVISION: Welterweight
RECORD: 54-4-2 (38)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 1
STATUS REPORT: Scraped by Juan Manuel Marquez, winning a majority decision in November 2011, and then lost a disputed decision to Tim Bradley in June. Hadn't lost in 15 fights over a seven-year spell before that.
FUTURE: Takes on Marquez in the fourth installment of their highly competitive rivalry on Dec. 8.
THINK ABOUT IT: Might have slipped a notch, but enjoy him while you can as he is likely to fight only a few more times before becoming a full-time politician.

Image: Naoki Fukuda

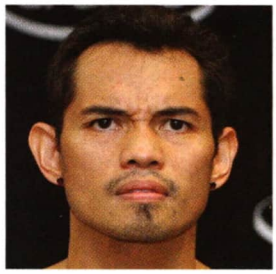
3 ANDRE WARD

DIVISION: Super middleweight (RING/WBC/WBA titleholder)
RECORD: 26-0 (14)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 10
STATUS REPORT: Won Showtime's Super Six World Boxing Classic with ease last December, widely outscoring Carl Froch in the final to unify the WBC and WBA titles. Then stunned the boxing world in September by stopping RING light heavyweight champion Chad Dawson, who had dropped down to 168 pounds.
FUTURE: Having conquered his most-obvious rivals at super middleweight, perhaps he'll elect to fight long time friend Andre Dirrell in a fight that has interesting story lines or perhaps move up to 175.
THINK ABOUT IT: Hasn't lost since he was 14, after which he won the Olympic gold medal at light heavyweight in 2004 and his pro titles at super middleweight.

4 SERGIO MARTINEZ

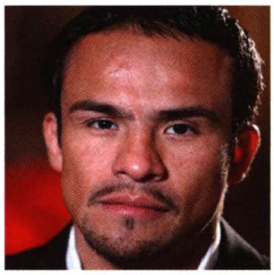
DIVISION: Middleweight (WBC titleholder)
RECORD: 50-2-2 (28 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 3
STATUS REPORT: Remains one of the best in the business even though he's closing in on his 38th birthday, as he has retained much of his speed and skills. He stopped Britons Darren Barker and Matthew Macklin and then made good on his promise to dominate his recent duel with Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. in September, although he had to survive a harrowing final round to do it.
FUTURE: Lucrative rematch with Chavez is a possibility, perhaps at Cowboys Stadium around the Cinco de Mayo holiday. That would allow Martinez plenty of time to recover from his broken hand and knee ligament damage he suffered in the Chavez fight.
THINK ABOUT IT: The middleweight division is booming after a number of down years. In addition to Chavez, viable options are Gennady Golovkin and Daniel Geale.

5 NONITO DONAIRE



DIVISION: Junior featherweight (RING/WBO titleholder)
RECORD: 30-1 (19 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 4
STATUS REPORT: Recorded a shutout victory over previously undefeated Omar Narvaez, who went up in weight but was reluctant to engage Donaire. Then moved up to 122, where he dominated Wilfredo Vazquez Jr. to win the vacant WBO title but had to settle for a split-decision victory. Unified with a victory over IBF title-holder Jeffrey Mathebula, who ended up with a broken jaw but went the distance. Finally, he stopped Toshiaki Nishioka in nine rounds to win THE RING Championship in October.
FUTURE: We'd all love to see Donaire take on the winner of the Nov. 10 Anselmo Moreno-Abner Mares fight but it doesn't seem likely in light of promotional rivalries. At press time a December matchup with Jorge Arce in Mexico was in the works.
THINK ABOUT IT: Having scored two of the most-violent knock outs of recent years, over Vic Darchinyan and Fernando Montiel, have we unfairly come to expect that every time?

6 JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ

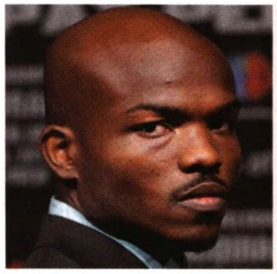


DIVISION: Junior welterweight (WBO titleholder)
RECORD: 54-6-1 (39 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 5
STATUS REPORT: Lost a majority decision many believed he deserved to win in his third meeting with Manny Pacquiao. Rebounded from that to win his seventh world title in four weight classes, easily picking his way past Sergei Fedchenko.
FUTURE: Takes on Pacquiao for a fourth time on Dec. 8.
THINK ABOUT IT: Pacquiao has only a seven-point advantage on the cards over 36 rounds of boxing. The Filipino is 2-0-1 in the three fights, all controversial.

7 WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO

DIVISION: Heavyweight (RING/WBA/IBF/WBO titleholder)
RECORD: 58-3 (51 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 6
STATUS REPORT: Has cleaned out the division so thoroughly that he has resorted to fighting blown-up cruiserweights and rematches. He coasted past both Jean Marc Mormeck (KO 4) in March and Tony Thompson (KO 6) in July.
FUTURE: Was scheduled to face Mariusz Wach on Nov. 10 in Hamburg, Germany.
THINK ABOUT IT: With no real challenges on the horizon, only Klitschko's place in history is in doubt. He's third behind only Larry Holmes (25) and Muhammad Ali (24) for most world heavyweight title fights. He had 21 going into the Wach fight.

8 TIMOTHY BRADLEY

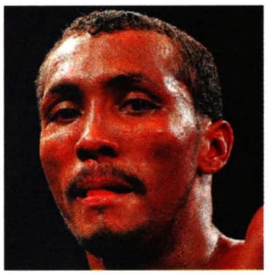


DIVISION: Welterweight (WBO titleholder)
Record: 29-0 (12 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 7
STATUS REPORT: Bradley took heat for not taking the Amir Khan fight last summer, instead opting to sign with Top Rank. However, after stopping shop-worn Joel Casamayor in eight one-sided rounds in November 2011, they moved into the big leagues by facing Manny Pacquiao in what now looks like a savvy business decision. Many believed Pacquiao won handily but others saw it as a competitive fight.
FUTURE: When Pacquiao picked Juan Manuel Marquez for his December dance partner, Bradley was the odd man out. Was scheduled to fight on Dec. 15 but, at press time, no opponent had been selected.
THINK ABOUT IT: Took the WBC 140-pound title from Junior Witter just over four years ago in England. Since then, six of his eight opponents were past or current world titleholders. He won three major belts during that period.

9 VITALI KLITSCHKO

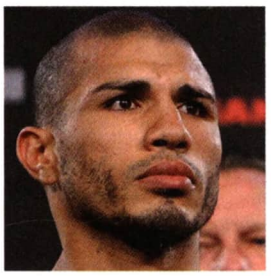
DIVISION: Heavyweight (WBC titleholder)
RECORD: 45-2 (41 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 12
STATUS REPORT: Big brother continued to chug along. Seems to have lost a step but is still too good for the current heavyweights, including Dereck Chisora in an incident-filled promotion in February. Tore a ligament in his shoulder in that fight yet returned in September to stop Manuel Charr on a cut in the fourth round. Reported 9.22 million viewers watched that fight in Germany.
FUTURE: Forty-one-year-old has said he only has a few more fights in him and intends to go into politics.
THINK ABOUT IT: Only Rocky Marciano has a higher knockout ratio among heavyweight champions.

10 ANSELMO MORENO



DIVISION: Bantamweight (WBA titleholder)
RECORD: 33-1-1 (12 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 39
STATUS REPORT: One of the best pure boxers in the game is also one of the most underrated. Since last year's list, "Chemito" has made a successful American debut by easily outpointing Vic Darchinyan last December in California and then stopping David De La Mora in nine rounds in Texas.
FUTURE: Was scheduled to move up to junior featherweight to meet Abner Mares in a fascinating matchup on Nov. 10, a fight destined to shape the careers of both fighters.
THINK ABOUT IT: Twenty-seven-year-old southpaw is the third longest reigning titleholder in boxing, having first won the WBA bantamweight belt in May 2008. Since then, he's made 11 successful defenses in five different countries. Only four of his 12 world title fights have ended inside the distance, meaning he has pulled off the difficult trick of winning decisions on the road multiple times.

11 MIGUEL COTTO

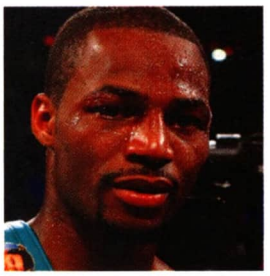


DIVISION: Junior middleweight
RECORD: 37-3 (30 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 13
STATUS REPORT: Gained a measure of revenge over old adversary Antonio Margarito with a one-sided beat down just before last Christmas. He then left Top Rank, which had promoted his entire career, to go it alone with his own promotional company. That led to a fight with Floyd Mayweather Jr., who received his toughest fight in years even though he won a unanimous decision.
FUTURE: Sought lucrative rematches with either Pacquiao or Mayweather but settled on a Dec. 1 fight against slick Austin Trout. If he wins, he might yet face Pacquiao or Mayweather again or possibly meet rising star Canelo Alvarez in an attractive Puerto Rico vs. Mexico showdown.
THINK ABOUT IT: Outside of Pacquiao and Mayweather, there isn't a better box office draw in North America. Has engaged in 20 world title fights and fought 15 world titleholders, winning four belts in three weight classes.

12 CARL FROCH

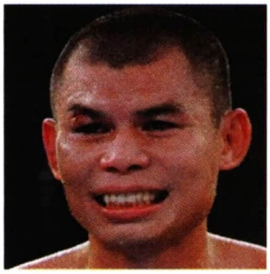
DIVISION: Super middleweight (IBF titleholder)
RECORD: 29-2 (21 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 14
STATUS REPORT: Had a down-and-up year, losing a wide decision to Andre Ward in the final of the Super Six tournament last December and then cutting down previously unbeaten Lucian Bute in five rounds in May in Nottingham, England, Froch's hometown.
FUTURE: Was scheduled to meet solid Yusaf Mack on Nov. 17, also in Nottingham. A rematch with Bute looms next year in Canada as part of the deal brokered before the first encounter.
THINK ABOUT IT: Is there anybody in boxing who has faced a comparable murderers row of late? His last eight fights (of which only three took place in Britain) were against Jean Pascal, Jermain Taylor, Andre Dirrell, Mikkel Kessler, Arthur Abraham, Glen Johnson, Andre Ward and Lucian Bute.

13 CHAD DAWSON



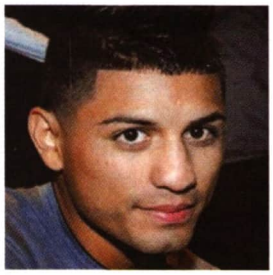
DIVISION: Light heavyweight (RING/WBC titleholder)
RECORD: 31-2 (17 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 21
STATUS REPORT: Easily beat Bernard Hopkins in their rematch, which lifted him onto some pound-for-pound lists, but then made the ill-advised decision to go down in weight to face Andre Ward and was stopped in the 10th round of a one-sided beat down.
FUTURE: Had no fight scheduled at press meet, although we can be certain it will be at 175 pounds.
THINK ABOUT IT: Has victories over Bernard Hopkins, Tomasz Adamek, Antonio Tarver (twice) and Glen Johnson (twice). Solid resume.

14 CHRIS JOHN



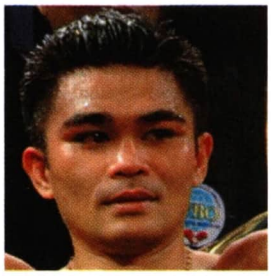
DIVISION: Featherweight (WBA titleholder)
RECORD: 47-0-2 (22 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 18
STATUS REPORT: Had a nondescript year, outpointing unknown Stanyslav Merdov in November 2011 in Australia and doing the same against Shoji Kimura in May in Singapore.
FUTURE: Was scheduled to face 44-0 Thai Chonlatarm Piriyapinyo on Nov. 9 in Singapore. Has said he intends to fight only a few more times.
THINK ABOUT IT: Has held the WBA title for nine years, making him the longest-reigning featherweight titleholder ever. Currently has 16 defenses, three shy of Eusebio Pedroza's division record.

15 ABNER MARES



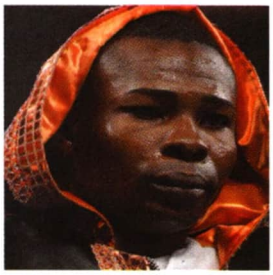
DIVISION: Junior featherweight
RECORD: 24-0-1 (13 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 37
STATUS REPORT: Faced Joseph Agbeko last December in a rematch of their close fight and left no doubt this time, winning a one-sided decision in a bantamweight fight. Then won the vacant WBC 122-pound title against seasoned veteran Eric Morel in April.
FUTURE: Was booked to face Anselmo Moreno in a stiff test Nov. 10 in Los Angeles.
THINK ABOUT IT: Highly acclaimed as an amateur. Represented Mexico in the 2004 Olympics.

16 BRIAN VILORIA



Division: Flyweight (WBO titleholder)
Record: 31-3 (18 KOs)
Last Year's Ranking: 82
Status Report: Has enjoyed a hugely successful 12 months. Managed to break the favored Giovani Segura's jaw on his way to an eighth-round stoppage last December and then, in May, stopped Omar Nino in nine rounds in their third fight.
Future: Was scheduled to face WBA titleholder Hernan Marquez on Nov. 17 in Los Angeles.
Think About it: The Viloria-Marquez bout will have been the first unification to take place in the flyweight division.

17 GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX

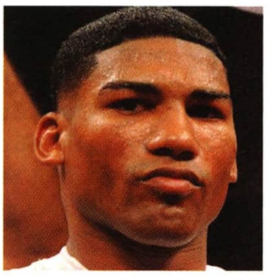


DIVISION: Junior featherweight (WBA titleholder)
RECORD: 11-0 (8 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: Unranked
STATUS REPORT: Took out rising young American 122-pounder Rico Ramos in six rounds to win the WBA title in January, stopped Teon Kennedy in five rounds in June and easily outpointed Roberto Marroquin in September. None of those opponents is elite but the manner in which Rigondeaux dealt with them was impressive. Remember how a prime Shane Mosley overwhelmed the likes of Adrian Stone? That was how Rigondeaux went about his business in his recent fights.
FUTURE: The fight against Marroquin was masterful but boring, which probably won't help him get back on the airwaves in the next few months.
THINK ABOUT IT: Considered one of the best amateur fighters ever, won two Olympic and World championships along with a slew of other titles. Reputed to have had almost 400 contests, with only 12 loses.

18 ROBERT GUERRERO

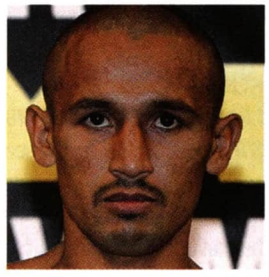
DIVISION: Welterweight
RECORD: 30-1-1 (18 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 25
STATUS REPORT: Tore rotator cuff and pulled out of a highly anticipated fight with Marcos Maidana last September and endured several months of physical therapy before returning as a welterweight to beat Selcuk Aydin by a unanimous decision.
FUTURE: Was scheduled to face Andre Berto on Nov. 24 in Ontario, Calif. It's not Floyd Mayweather Jr., the fighter he'd like to meet, but this is the kind of matchup that can define a boxer and advance his chances of meeting Mayweather down the road.
THINK ABOUT IT: Has managed to win two world titles and three interim versions despite a career blighted with injury and his wife's battle with leukemia.

19 YURIORKIS GAMBOA



DIVISION: Featherweight
RECORD: 21-0 (16 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 17
Status Report: Has yet to fight since last year's RING 100, which destroyed the momentum he generated in 2010 and early 2011. Had decided to move up to lightweight to meet Brandon Rios only to inexplicably bail on two press conferences, leaving the promotion shrouded in mystery. Turned out he defected from Top Rank to the fledgling company of Floyd Mayweather Jr. and 50 Cent, which then was dissolved. Now he appears to be a free agent, although one rumor has him returning to Top Rank.
FUTURE: Has a few options at featherweight (Mikey Garcia, Orlando Salido, Juan Manuel Lopez) but probably will move up in weight. Could fight on the Manny Pacquiao-Juan Manuel Marquez card, according to one report.
THINK ABOUT IT: Before Gamboa and Olympic teammates Odlanier Solis and Yan Bhartelemy defected in 2007, no Cubans of note had turned pro since Joel Casamayor back in 1992.

20 ORLANDO SALIDO



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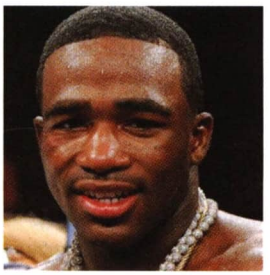
21 ADRIEN BRONER

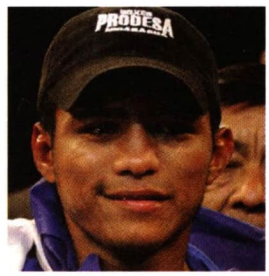


DIVISION: Lightweight
RECORD: 24-0 (20 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 97
STATUS REPORT: Has won in spectacular fashion, winning over fans in the process, but must take one more step before he becomes a true star: He must beat a Top 20 opponent. Has had to fight only 12 rounds in his past three fights. Won his first world title by stopping Vicente Rodriguez in three in November of 2011, took apart Eloy Perez in just four in February and then KO'd former Olympican Vicente Escobedo in five. The last win was tainted by Broner's inability to make weight, after which he was stripped of his title.
FUTURE: Was scheduled to make his official lightweight debut on Nov. 17 against game-as-they-come Antonio DeMarco for the WBC title.
THINK ABOUT IT: Has arrived at a time when boxing needs new stars. With his obvious talent and quirky behavior, dare we call him Floyd Mayweather 2.0?

22 DANIEL GEALE

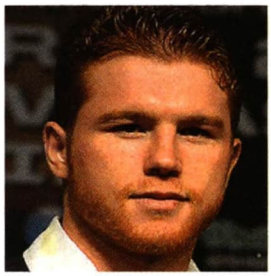
DIVISION: Middleweight (WBA/IBF titleholder)
RECORD: 28-1 (15 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 66
STATUS REPORT: Recorded the biggest victory of his career when he defeated Felix Sturm in September by a split decision to unify the IBF and WBA titles in Germany, Sturm's home country. Australian easily outpointed mandatory challenger Osumanu Adama in his hometown of Tasmania in March.
FUTURE: WBA ordered him to face Gennady Golovkin, though it looks like he'll face Anthony Mundine his next time out.
THINK ABOUT IT: Defeating a championship-caliber opponent in Germany is always tough. Geale has now done it twice, having outpointed Sebastian Sylvester in May 2011.

23 ROMAN GONZALEZ



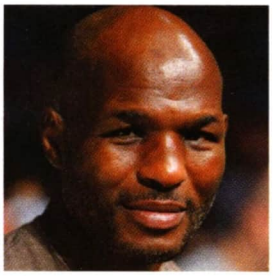
DIVISION: Junior flyweight (WBA titleholder)
RECORD: 32-0 (27 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 41
STATUS REPORT: At press time, one of the biggest punchers pound for pound had knocked out three opponents in 2012 – Manuel Jimenez (first round), Ramon Hirales (fourth) and Stiven Monterrosa (third). The Hirales victory was particularly impressive given the opponent's resume.
FUTURE: Was scheduled to fight Juan Francisco Estrada on Nov. 17 in Los Angeles. Also, there has been talk that he might unify with Donnie Nietes.
THINK ABOUT IT: The protégé of Nicaraguan legend Alexis Arguello has an impressive 84-percent KO ratio.

24 SAUL ALVAREZ



DIVISION: Junior middleweight (WBC titleholder
RECORD: 41-0-1 (30 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 48
STATUS REPORT: Ability seems to be catching up with his considerable drawing power, although he still must prove he can beat an elite opponent in his prime before we can say he's one of the very best in the game. Won all three bouts since last year's list, defeating in order Kermit Cintron (fifth- round KO), Shane Mosley (one-sided decision) and undersized Josesito Lopez (fifth-round KO). One of the most-exciting fighters in the world.
FUTURE: Hopes to land a big-money matchup with Floyd Mayweather Jr., Miguel Cotto, or Sergio Martinez in 2013.
THINK ABOUT IT: Has been able to cope with the immense pressure of being a young star because of his low-key nature and supreme confidence.

25 BERNARD HOPKINS



DIVISION: Light heavyweight
RECORD: 52-6-2 (32 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 11
STATUS REPORT: Last of a dying breed lives the life of a boxer 365 days of the year, year in and year out. He possesses a Spartan work ethic bordering on pathological. No one can fight Father Time forever, though. B-Hop twice met Chad Dawson in the past year, the first a no-contest when he was injured after Dawson threw him to the canvas and then a clear majority-decision loss in the rematch.
FUTURE: Nothing scheduled at press time. With his 48th birthday looming, surely he doesn't have more than a fight or two left, but then we've thought that for the past decade.
THINK ABOUT IT: Has engaged in 29 world title bouts in three decades, which is tied with Virgil Hill for second all time. Julio Cesar Chavez had 37 championship bouts.

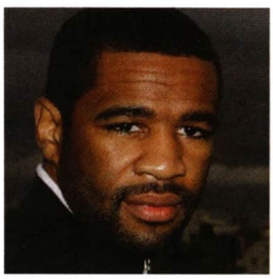
26 LUCAS MATTHYSSE

DIVISION: Junior welterweight
RECORD: 32-2 (30 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 98
STATUS REPORT: Like creeping death, he just keeps coming with those heavy hands. Has won four consecutive fights, all by knockout. His victims: Sergio Priotti (fourth round), Angel Martinez (sixth), Humberto Soto (fifth), and highly impressive seeing off Olusegun Ajose (10th). Finally getting recognition as an excellent fighter.
FUTURE: Hopes to gain a shot at Danny Garcia, which is possible because both fight for Golden Boy Promotions.
THINK ABOUT IT: Both of Matthysse's losses – split decisions to Zab Judah and Devon Alexander in their backyards – were highly controversial, meaning he could easily be undefeated.

27 TOSHIAKI NISHIOKA

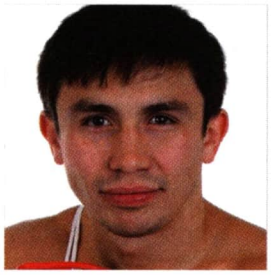
DIVISION: Junior featherweight
RECORD: 39-5-3 (24 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 36
STATUS REPORT: Japanese speedster got his wish when he landed a matchup with Filipino-American star Nonito Donaire in October, which he hoped would propel him to the next level of stardom. However, things didn't go well for the 36-year-old. He fought tentatively and then, when he finally decided to take risks, he was knocked out in the ninth round.
FUTURE: Told reporters after the loss that he hadn't decided whether to continue fighting, although that might've been the disappointment talking.
THINK ABOUT IT: Some wondered where Nishioka's career was going after he went 0-2-2 in four fights against Thai legend Veeraphol Sahaprom between 2000 and 2004. After that, he won 16 consecutive fights – and the WBC junior featherweight title – before losing to Donaire.

28 LAMONT PETERSON



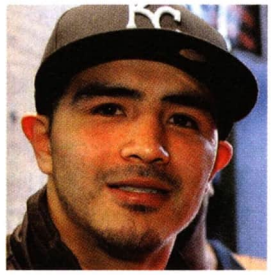
DIVISION: Junior welterweight (IBF titleholder)
RECORD: 30-1-1 (15 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 83
STATUS REPORT: Defeated Amir Khan by a disputed decision to claim the WBA and IBF 140-pound titles last December but then tested positive for synthetic testosterone. The WBA withdrew their title but the IBF accepted Peterson's assertion that the testosterone was taken for medical purposes. Still, any momentum he would've had as a result of the victory was stalled and he lost some credibility.
FUTURE: IBF in October ordered Peterson to defend his belt against Kendall Holt after negotiations with Zab Judah produced nothing.
THINK ABOUT IT: Grew up on the mean streets of Washington, D.C., with his younger brother, Anthony, until they met Barry Hunter, who took them under his wing and helped mold them as people as well as boxers.

29 GENNADY GOLOVKIN



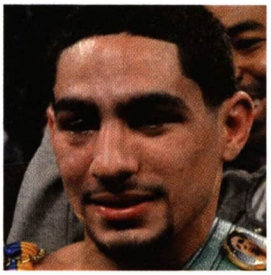
DIVISION: Middleweight
RECORD: 24-0 (21 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: Unranked
STATUS REPORT: Cracks the RING 100 as one of the hottest commodities in boxing after a clinical dismantling of Grzegorz Proska in five one-sided rounds in September on HBO's Boxing After Dark. Most agree that this is only the beginning for the huge puncher from Kazakhstan, who reminds some of the late Edwin Valero.
FUTURE: Will definitely be invited back by HBO but intends to stay active in Europe rather than wait for a TV date. One possibility, as per a WBA mandate, is Daniel Geale.
THINK ABOUT IT: Comes with a stellar amateur pedigree, having won the 2003 World Championships with victories over Andy Lee and Matt Korobov, as well as an eye-opening KO of Lucian Bute. Later picked up silver at the 2004 Olympics, beating Andre Dirrell along the way. Also owns a win over Geale in the unpaid ranks.

30 BRANDON RIOS



DIVISION: Junior welterweight
RECORD: 31-0-1 (23 KOs)
Last Year's Ranking: 19
STATUS REPORT: Just keeps on winning. Lost some credibility when he failed to make weight for his fight against Cuban Richard Abril (the replacement for Yuriorkis Gamboa) and then struggled to pull out a disputed split-decision victory in April. However, in his first fight as a full-fledged junior welterweight, he ended an entertaining fight against Mike Alvarado with a spectacular knockout in the seventh round in October. Last December, he stopped Britain's John Murray in 11 rounds even though he hardly ate or drank anything in the week before the fight. One of the toughest boxers in the world.
FUTURE: Could face the winner of the Dec. 8 Manny Pacquiao-Juan Manuel Marquez fight, which would give Rios the windfall every fighter dreams of.
THINK ABOUT IT: Rios isn't necessarily known as a big puncher but only one (Abril) of his past 13 fights – all victories – has gone the distance. That includes a DQ victory over Anthony Peterson, who refused to fight.

31 DANNY GARCIA

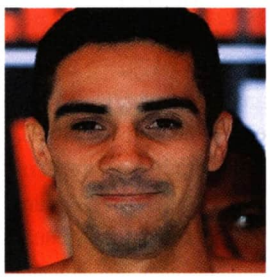


DIVISION: Junior welterweight (RING/WBC/WBA titleholder)
RECORD: 24-0 (15 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: Unranked
STATUS REPORT: Had banner past year. Followed a split-decision victory over Kendall Holt last October with a one-sided decision over Erik Morales to win the WBC title in March and a stunning fourth-round knockout of Amir Khan in July to add the WBA belt to his collection and emerge as a rising young star.
FUTURE: Was scheduled to fight Morales again Oct. 20 at the new Barclays Center in Brooklyn, N.Y. A victory could lead to fights against the likes of Lucas Matthysse, Lamont Peterson or Zab Judah.
THINK ABOUT IT: Was an underdog to Morales in their first fight and to Khan. A victory over Morales in the rematch could make him a candidate for Fighter of the Year.

32 AMIR KHAN

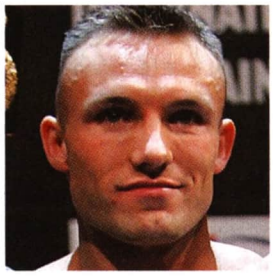
DIVISION: Junior welterweight
RECORD: 26-3 (18 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 16
STATUS REPORT: Not a good year for the 25-year-old Brit, who drops in the rankings after having lost to Lamont Peterson under frustrating circumstances last December and then brutally knocked out by Danny Garcia in four rounds in July.
FUTURE: Will rebuild under Virgil Hunter, who's done a splendid job with Andre Ward, after parting ways with Freddie Roach. Their maiden fight is against young Los Angeles-area prospect Carlos Molina on Dec. 15 in L.A.
THINK ABOUT IT: Invaded America in 2010 with the look of a transcendent star but has gone a disappointing 3-2 since and never developed a fan base in the U.S. Perhaps the move overseas came too early.

33 ANTONIO DEMARCO



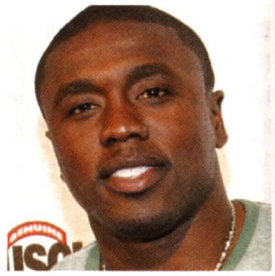
DIVISION: Lightweight (WBC titleholder)
RECORD: 28-2-1 (21 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: Unranked
STATUS REPORT: Living proof that "it's not over till it's over." Rallied in a fight he was losing to knock out Jorge Linares in the 11th round in October 2011. Followed that with a fifth-round KO of Miguel Roman in March and 44-second ambush of John Molina in September to become one of the more popular fighters on the planet.
FUTURE: Was scheduled to square off with Adrien Broner on Nov. 17 in Atlantic City, N.J., in what could be this era's version of Floyd Mayweather Jr. vs. Jose Luis Castillo.
THINK ABOUT IT: Hails from Los Mochis, Mexico, known as "Champions town" for the throngs of world titleholders it has produced. That includes Jorge Arce, Hugo Cazares, Juan Carlos Sanchez Jr. and Humberto Soto, who also happens to be DeMarco's cousin.

34 MIKKEL KESSLER



DIVISION: Super middleweight
RECORD: 45-2 (34 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 28
STATUS REPORT: Returned from a year-long hiatus to stop Allan Green with one of the sweetest left hooks you could wish to see, laying Green out in the fourth round of a light heavyweight bout in May.
FUTURE: Returns to super middleweight to fight Ireland's Brian Magee on Dec. 8 in Denmark, Kessler home country. Also wouldn't be a surprise to see a bout with Arthur Abraham, with whom Kessler shares a promoter, at some point in 2013.
THINK ABOUT IT: Has never lost in Denmark, with both career defeats coming on the road against Joe Calzaghe and Andre Ward.

35 ANDRE BERTO

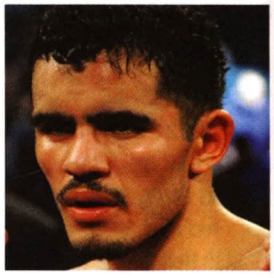


DIVISION: Welterweight
RECORD: 28-1 (22 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 27
STATUS REPORT: Stopped Jan Zaveck in an entertaining scrap to win the IBF welterweight title in September 2011. Was scheduled to face Victor Ortiz in a rematch in June only to see it canceled when Berto tested positive for the steroid norandrosterone. In August, the California State Athletic Commission apparently accepted Berto's contention that the substance was the result of contamination of a supplement he consumed and granted him a license.
FUTURE: Was scheduled to face Robert Guerrero on Nov. 24 in Ontario, Calif., in what would be his first fight in more than 14 months.
THINK ABOUT IT: Represented Haiti, the native country of his parents, at the 2004 Olympic games after he failed to make the American team.

36 LUCIAN BUTE

DIVISION: Light heavyweight
RECORD: 30-1 (24 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 15
STATUS REPORT: Crashed and burned in his first truly significant test. Carl Froch battered the Romanian-Canadian before stopping him in the fifth round in May in Nottingham, England, Froch's hometown. That set Bute's career on its head, as he must now rebuild. The Froch disaster followed an impressive unanimous-decision victory over aging but still effective Glen Johnson in November 2011.
FUTURE: Was scheduled to take on light heavyweight Denis Grachev on Nov. 3 in the safer confines of Montreal, which should provide a barometer of where Bute is mentally.
THINK ABOUT IT: Was knocked out by Gennady Golovkin as an amateur and was lucky to escape his first meeting with Librado Andrade, so it's up to him to prove he's for real after the Froch loss.

37 MIGUEL VAZQUEZ



DIVISION: Lightweight (IBF titleholder)
RECORD: 31-3 (13 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: Unranked
STATUS REPORT: At press time, had lost one round on one card in two fights that went the distance in 2012, unanimous-decision victories over Ammeth Diaz in a title defense and Daniel Attah. The Attah fight was a shutout over 10 rounds. Diaz and Attah aren't top-level opponents. Still, that's impressive.
FUTURE: Was scheduled to defend his title against Marvin Quintero on Oct. 27 in Verona, N.Y.
THINK ABOUT IT: His three loses were against Saul Alvarez (twice) and Timothy Bradley. No shame in that.

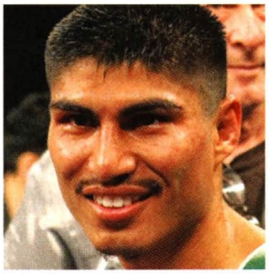
38 DANIEL PONCE DE LEON

DIVISION: Featherweight (WBC titleholder)
RECORD: 44-4 (35 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: Unranked
STATUS REPORT: Bounced back from two loses in 2011, winning two lower-level fights against Omar Estrella and Eduardo Lazcano before taking the WBC 126-pound crown from Jhonny Gonzalez by a technical decision in the eighth round in September.
FUTURE: Has a number of options now that he's back on top, one of which could be a rematch with Gonzalez.
THINK ABOUT IT: A member of the Tarahumara tribe in Sierra Madre Occidental, a mountain range in western Mexico, he's the only one of five brothers who survived the harsh surroundings.

39 JEAN PASCAL

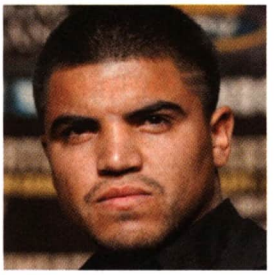
DIVISION: Light heavyweight
RECORD: 26-2-1 (16 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 24
Status Report: Drops from last year's position as a result of a long period of inactivity. Hasn't fought since he lost a unanimous decision to Bernard Hopkins in May 2011.
FUTURE: Was twice lined up to face Tavoris Cloud for the IBF 175-pound title but it fell out on both occasions. Now looking for something to help him shed the ring rust.
THINK ABOUT IT: Hugely popular in Canada, like Lucian Bute. Hasn't fought outside the province of Quebec since 2008, when he lost a unanimous decision to Carl Froch in Nottingham, England.

40 MIKEY GARCIA



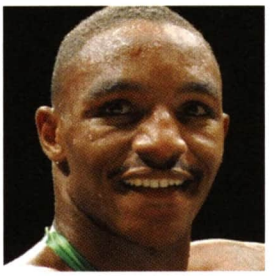
DIVISION: Featherweight
RECORD: 29-0 (25 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 67
STATUS REPORT: One of the fastest-rising young stars stopped three overmatched opponents in the past year – Juan Carlos Martinez (fourth round), Bernabe Concepcion (seventh) and Mauricio Pastrana (second) – as he waited to land a title fight. Most observers would agree that he's ready.
FUTURE: Was scheduled to face Jonathan Victor Barros in another non-title bout on Nov. 10. Still waiting for that big fight, as potential matchups against Celestino Caballero, Orlando Salido and Juan Manuel Lopez never materialized.
THINK ABOUT IT: Grew up around boxing watching the likes of Fernando Vargas and his older brother, former world champion and now trainer Robert Garcia. Has one of the best KO percentages in boxing (86.21).

41 VICTOR ORTIZ



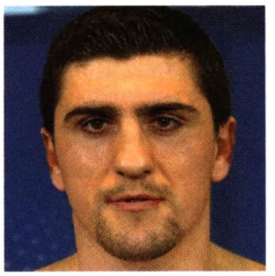
DIVISION: Welterweight
RECORD: 29-4-2 (22 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 26
STATUS REPORT: Was scheduled to face Andre Berto in a rematch but the matchup was scrapped after Berto failed a drug test. Replacement Josesito Lopez then scored an upset when he broke the jaw of Ortiz, who was unable to continue after nine rounds. Ortiz was ahead on all cards. Setback probably cost him a lucrative matchup with Saul Alvarez. Has fought only once since his meltdown against Floyd Mayweather Jr. in September 2011.
FUTURE: Recovering from his injury. Expected to return next year.
THINK ABOUT IT: Was criticized for quitting when the going got tough against Marcos Maidana and Lopez. Rematches would give Ortiz the opportunity to vindicate himself.

42 DEVON ALEXANDER



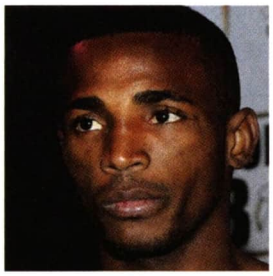
DIVISION: Welterweight
RECORD: 23-1 (13 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 55
STATUS REPORT: Impressively outboxed Marcos Maidana in both fighters' welterweight debuts in February. That and an earlier split-decision victory over Lucas Matthysse re-established him as a player in the division after a shaky performance in defeat against Timothy Bradley early last year.
FUTURE: Was scheduled to face big-punching IBF titleholder Randall Bailey on Oct. 20.
THINK ABOUT IT: Came within one round on one card of shutting out Maidana in their 10-round fight.

43 MARCO HUCK



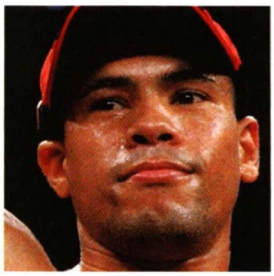
DIVISION: Cruiserweight (WBO titleholder)
RECORD: 34-2-1 (25 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 58
STATUS REPORT: Moved up to heavyweight and lost a disputed majority decision to Alexander Povetkin in February, looking impressive in the process. Then, after moving back down to 200 pounds, drew in his rematch with talented Ola Afolabi in May.
FUTURE: Was scheduled to meet former titleholder Firat Arslan on Nov. 3 in Germany in what should be a return to his winning ways. A third fight with Afolabi or a rematch with Povetkin could happen in the next 12 months.
THINK ABOUT IT: Won a world kickboxing championship before turning to boxing.

44 ERISLANDY LARA



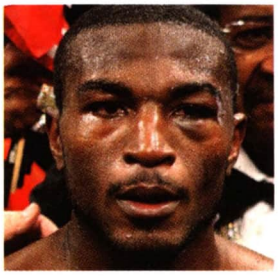
DIVISION: Junior middleweight
RECORD: 17-1-1 (11 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: Unranked
STATUS REPORT: Out of action for several months with a fracture near his left eye. Returned and took care of business, blitzing Ronald Hearns in one round in April and easily outpointing Freddy Hernandez in June.
FUTURE: Was scheduled to face Vanes Martirosyan in a title eliminator on Nov. 10, his first important fight since he lost a disputed majority decision to Paul Williams in July 2011. If he was able to get past Martirosyan, Saul Alvarez could be next.
THINK ABOUT IT: Highly decorated amateur. Was world champion in 2005 and would've been favored to win gold in the 2008 Olympics had he not opted to defect and go professional.

45 JUAN MANUEL LOPEZ



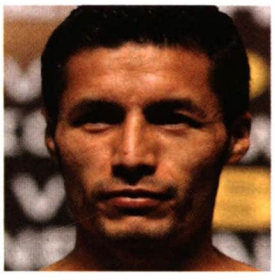
DIVISION: Featherweight
RECORD: 31-2 (28 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 34
STATUS REPORT: Once again fought Orlando Salido and once again met his match, fighting at a fearsome pace that left him completely drained when the referee stopped the action early in Round 10 in March. The two KO losses to Salido destroyed his fearsome aura, although he shouldn't be counted out quite yet.
FUTURE: Nothing at press time. A move to 130 in search of a third division title could be in the cards.
THINK ABOUT IT: Was the first boxer from the 2004 Olympics to win a professional world title.

46 TAVORIS CLOUD



DIVISION: Light heavyweight (IBF titleholder)
RECORD: 24-0 (19 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 30
STATUS REPORT: Managed to get past well-schooled Gabriel Campillo by a split decision in February, although many believe he was the benefactor of a gift decision. That was his only fight since June 2011. Hence the drop from last year's ranking.
FUTURE: Much-anticipated defense against Jean Pascal collapsed. Probably will meet mandatory challenger Karo Murat in Germany, which should be a significant challenge.
THINK ABOUT IT: One of only two world champions, along with Guillermo Jones, currently promoted by Don King, unthinkable in bygone years.

47 JHONNY GONZALEZ

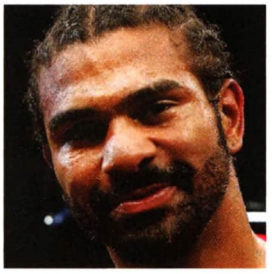


DIVISION: Featherweight
RECORD: 52-8 (45 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 45
STATUS REPORT: Was on a terrific run until his disappointing eighth-round technical-decision loss to Daniel Ponce de Leon in September, which cost Gonzalez his WBC title. The fight was stopped because of a cut over Gonzalez's right eye. Had stopped Roinet Caballero in two rounds and easily outpointed Elio Rojas previously.
FUTURE: The unsatisfying ending to the Ponce de Leon fight could result in a rematch.
THINK ABOUT IT: Had demonstrated his vaunted power with 11 consecutive KOs inside of six rounds before his decision over Rojas.

48 KOKI KAMEDA

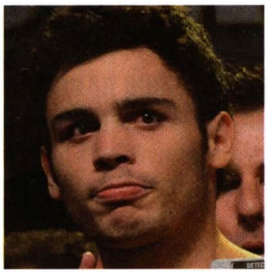
DIVISION: Bantamweight
RECORD: 28-1 (17 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 38
STATUS REPORT: Low rating for a three-division world champion is due to quality of opposition. Stopped Mario Macias last December in four rounds and outpointed Nouldy Manakane in April.
FUTURE: Possibly meeting hard-punching Hugo Ruiz on Dec. 4 in Japan. Seems content to stay home and fight middling WBA-ranked contenders.
THINK ABOUT IT: Eldest of three fighting brothers. Daiki Kameda, the middle brother, is a former WBA flyweight titleholder. Tomoki Kameda, the youngest, is unbeaten and closing in on a world title of his own.

49 DAVID HAYE



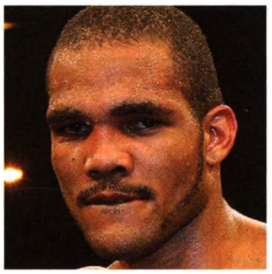
DIVISION: Heavyweight
RECORD: 26-2 (24 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 64
STATUS REPORT: "Retired" from boxing after losing to Wladimir Klitschko last summer. Was involved in an ugly brawl with Dereck Chisora in the aftermath of Chisora's loss to Vitali Klitschko. Then met Chisora in an open-air event in July in London and won with ease, stopping his overmatched foe in the fifth round.
FUTURE: Haye said he and Vitali Klitschko have agreed on terms to fight next year, according to a British newspaper. However, Klitschko, an aspiring politician, was a candidate for Ukraine parliament on Oct. 28. That had the potential to scuttle any fight with Haye.
THINK ABOUT IT: Has shown little interest in fighting anyone other than Vitali Klitschko. If that fight doesn't happen, what next?

50 JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ JR.



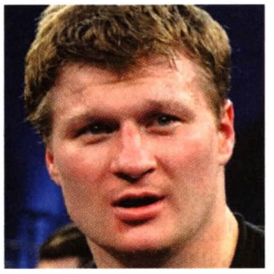
DIVISION: Middleweight
RECORD: 46-1-1 (32 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 90
STATUS REPORT: His size and solid ability got him past Peter Manfredo, Marco Antonio Rubio and Andy Lee before he ran into the smooth boxing skills of Sergio Martinez, who easily outboxed the Mexican before taking a big shot in the final minute and barely hanging on to win a decision. Conjured memories of his father's stunning last-second KO of Meldrick Taylor back in 1990.
FUTURE: Licking his wounds after his physically taxing loss. Could Martinez in a rematch. Tested positive for marijuana before the Martinez fight, after which he was suspended by the Nevada State Athletic Commission. Had a hearing scheduled for late October.
THINK ABOUT IT: Has fooled many who doubted he would amount to much. He's a good fighter and a big draw, mainly because of his last name.

51 YOAN PABLO HERNANDEZ



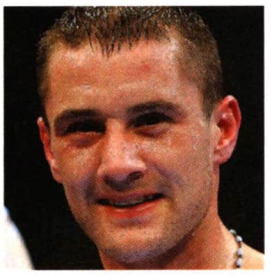
DIVISION: Cruiserweight (RING/IBF titleholder)
RECORD: 27-1 (13 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 61
STATUS REPORT: Opened the year by outpointing Steve Cunningham a second time to become THE RING champion in February. Broke his hand in the fight, which kept him on the shelf for seven months. Defeated underrated Troy Ross by a narrow – and disputed – decision upon his return in September.
FUTURE: Promoter Wilfred Sauerland has mentioned that he'd like to arrange a rematch with Ross to clear up any controversy.
THINK ABOUT IT: The majority of Cuban ex-patriots elect to live and fight in Miami, which has a large Cuban population. Hernandez made the decision to live and train in Germany, where the cruiserweight division is far more popular than elsewhere.

52 ALEXANDER POVETKIN



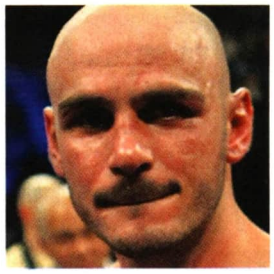
DIVISION: Heavyweight
RECORD: 25-0 (17 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 68
STATUS REPORT: Had a busy year. Stopped aged Cedric Boswell (KO 8), struggled to a majority decision over cruiserweight Marco Huck, and recently blew over a past-his-prime Hasim Rahman in two rounds.
FUTURE: Seems reluctant to face a Klitschko. Other options include undefeated Kubrat Pulev of Bulgaria.
THINK ABOUT IT: The 2004 Olympic gold medallist from Russia has yet to fight for a legitimate world title even though he's been a pro for more than seven years and is 33.

53 RICKY BURNS



DIVISION: Lightweight (WBO titleholder)
RECORD: 35-2 (10 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 87
STATUS REPORT: Fantastic past year. Went up in weight to easily outpoint tough Michael Katsidis in November 2011, did the same against capable Paulus Moses in March and then, in a stunning performance, knocked out Kevin Mitchell in the fourth round of an all-British showdown in September that many believed was an even matchup going in.
FUTURE: Won't be afraid of anyone having vanquished his biggest domestic rival. Next fight is scheduled for Dec. 15 in London, probably against young Englishman Liam Walsh.
THINK ABOUT IT: Has grown hugely since taking the WBO 130-pound crown from Roman Martinez two years ago and is building a nice resume at 135.

54 KELLY PAVLIK



DIVISION: Super middleweight
RECORD: 40-2 (34 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 49
STATUS REPORT: Showed he still has desire by moving his base to California to train under respected Robert Garcia. Has won four consecutive bouts since losing to Sergio Martinez in 2010 and battling alcohol problems, including three in 2012: stoppages of journeymen Aaron Jaco and Scott Sigmon and a decision over solid Will Rosinsky.
FUTURE: In negotiations to face RING champion Andre Ward in February. Of course, a victory would instantly return him to his elevated status of several years ago.
THINK ABOUT IT: Pavlik has had what seems like all kinds of ups and downs but has only lost twice, both times to elite opponents – Martinez and Bernard Hopkins, the latter of whom was naturally bigger than he was. Dropped the former and appeared to be in reach of a win before a nasty cut swung the contest irrevocably in Martinez's favor.

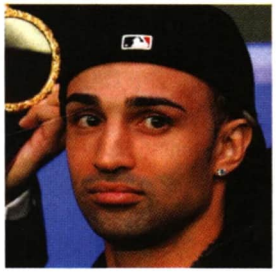
55 TAKASHI UCHIYAMA

DIVISION: Junior lightweight (WBA titleholder)
RECORD: 18-0-1 (15 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 91
STATUS REPORT: Shows no signs of slowing down at 33. Scored a devastating 11th-round knockout over Mexican warrior Jorge Solis last December before meeting Filipino southpaw Michael Farenas in July. That fight ended in a technical draw when Uchiyama was cut by an accidental clash of heads and couldn't continue.
FUTURE: Scheduled to defend his title against unbeaten Costa Rican Bryan Vazquez on Dec. 31 in Japan, where Uchiyama is likely to keep fighting.
THINK ABOUT IT: Retired from boxing after he failed to qualify for the 2004 Olympics. However, he missed the sport and returned a year later to begin his pro career.

56 AUSTIN TROUT

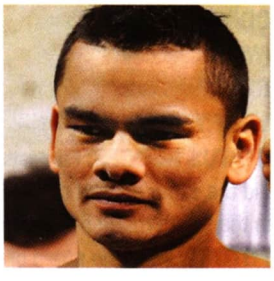
DIVISION: Junior middleweight
RECORD: 25-0 (14 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: Unranked
STATUS REPORT: Excellent technician gets the job done even if he's not fun to watch. Took out Australian Frank LoPorto in six rounds in November 2011 but struggled to gain any traction from the win. Signed with Al Haymon and promptly recorded a workman-like decision over Delvin Rodriguez in June on Showtime.
FUTURE: Heads to Madison Square Garden for the chance of a lifetime against Miguel Cotto on Dec. 1.
THINK ABOUT IT: Fighting on Cotto's home turf won't phase Trout, who has battled successfully in places like Canada, Mexico and Panama.

57 PAULIE MALIGNAGGI



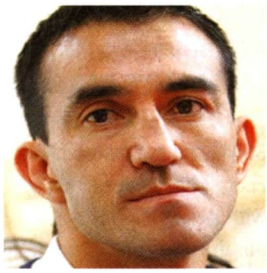
DIVISION: Welterweight (WBA titleholder)
RECORD: 31-4 (7 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 77
STATUS REPORT: Went to Ukraine in April as a heavy underdog but returned with the WBA title after a stunning ninth-round knockout of then-unbeaten Vyacheslav Senchenko, who was outboxed and ultimately couldn't continue because of a cut.
FUTURE: Was scheduled to defend against Pablo Cesar Cano on Oct. 20 at Barclays Center in Brooklyn, the first title fight in Malignaggi's hometown in 80-odd years.
THINK ABOUT IT: The knockout of Senchenko was particularly surprising given Malignaggi's low KO percentage of 20 percent going into the Cano fight.

58 MARCOS MAIDANA



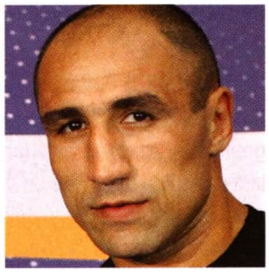
DIVISION: Welterweight
RECORD: 32-3 (29 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 31
STATUS REPORT: Lost a near-shutout decision to Devon Alexander, leading some to believe his days as a top fighter were numbered. However, bounced back with plenty of life to stop Jesus Soto Karass in eight round on the Saul Alvarez-Josesito Lopez undercard in September.
FUTURE: One possibility is a meeting with Saul Alvarez at 154 pounds, which might not end well for Maidana.
THINK ABOUT IT: A matchup with fellow Argentine and big puncher Lucas Matthysse is a natural.

59 OMAR NARVAEZ



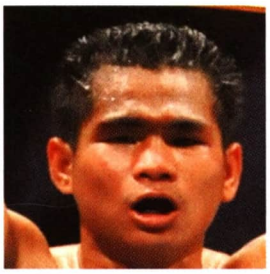
DIVISION: Junior bantamweight (WBO titleholder)
RECORD: 36-1-2 (19 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 57
STATUS REPORT: Rebounded from a wretched shutout loss to Nonito Donaire at bantamweight in October 2011 to easily outpoint Jose Cabrera to retain his 115-pound title in April.
FUTURE: Thirty-seven-year-old Argentine was scheduled to take on unheralded Mexican Johnny Garcia on Oct. 20 at the legendary Luna Park in Buenos Aires.
THINK ABOUT IT: Eight-year flyweight reign was the longest of any Argentine boxer, surpassing Carlos Monzon's mark. Also topped Monzon's then-record of 14 defenses with 16 of his own. In total, "El Huracan" has engaged in 23 world title bouts to date.

60 ARTHUR ABRAHAM



DIVISION: Super middleweight (WBO titleholder)
RECORD: 35-3 (27 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: Unranked
STATUS REPORT: After a disastrous run in the Super Six, got back to basics in knocking out Pablo Farias, then won a rough, competitive fight against former European Champion Piotr Wilczewski. Most recently became a two-weight world titlewinner when he was able to beat Robert Stieglitz by close but clear decision.
FUTURE: Will return in December in Germany, where he remains very popular. Top guys seem a level above, but "King" Arthur is still very much in the mix for big fights at 168, and an in-house bout with Mikkel Kessler looks like a good bet for next year.
THINK ABOUT IT: Was one of the favorites in the Super Six when he stepped up to super middleweight with a crushing KO over Jermain Taylor, but went on to lose his remaining three bouts in the competition.

61 TEPPARITH SINGWANCHA

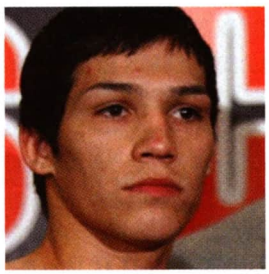


DIVISION: Junior bantamweight (WBA titleholder)
RECORD: 21-2 (13 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: Unranked
STATUS REPORT: Twenty-three-year-old is building a nice resume. Outpointed Daiki Kameda last December, stopped Tomonobu Shimizu in nine rounds in April and defeated Nobau Nashiro by a majority decision in September. All three of those fights took place in Japan, the home country of his opponents.
FUTURE: Possibly more trips to Japan, where several good-sized paydays loom.
THINK ABOUT IT: Arguably the best active fighter in Thailand, though not yet at the level future Hall of Famer Pongsaklek Wonjongkam reached in his prime.

62 SHINSUKE YAMANAKA

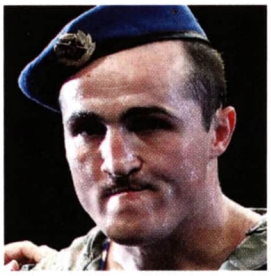
DIVISION: Bantamweight (WBC titleholder)
RECORD: 16-0-2 (11 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: Unranked
STATUS REPORT: Sprang to prominence by stopping Christian Esquivel in 11 rounds to win the vacant WBC title in a bout that saw both men on the canvas in November 2011. Then made a big statement by defeating Vic Darchinyan by a unanimous decision in April in Japan.
FUTURE: Was scheduled to defend against Tomas Rojas on Nov. 6. Fellow Japanese boxer Tomoki Kameda has mentioned Yamanka as a possible opponent.
THINK ABOUT IT: Named Japanese Boxer of the Year in 2011 after winning the world title.

63 HERNAN MARQUEZ



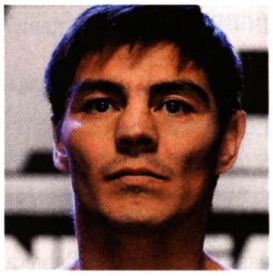
DIVISION: Flyweight (WBA titleholder)
RECORD: 34-2 (25 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: Unranked
STATUS REPORT: Followed his first-round knockout of Luis Concepcion in October 2011 with decision victories over Richie Mepranum March and Fernando Lumacad in July in non-title fights.
FUTURE: Was scheduled to face WBO titleholder Brian Viloria in a unification showdown on Nov. 17 in Los Angeles.
THINK ABOUT IT: Has never lost at flyweight.

64 DENIS LEBEDEV



DIVISION: Cruiserweight
RECORD: 24-1 (18 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: Unranked
STATUS REPORT: Beating up faded greats Roy Jones Jr. and James Toney last year didn't impress anyone. Still, most observers seem to believe that Lebedev is the real deal. He starched Shawn Cox in two rounds in April, his most-recent fight. Has lost only a split decision to Marco Huck.
FUTURE: Scheduled to face Guillermo Jones on Dec. 17 in Moscow.
THINK ABOUT IT: Returned to boxing in 2008 after a four-year hiatus following a chance meeting with friend Alexander Povetkin.

65 JORGE ARCE

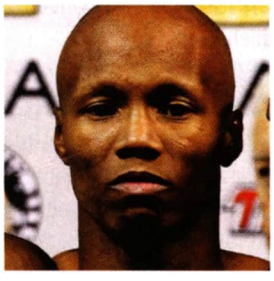


DIVISION: Featherweight
RECORD: 61-6-2 (46 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 62
STATUS REPORT: Continues to win at 33, having not tasted defeat since 2009. Fought four times since last RING 100, with three victories -- Angky Angkota (for the vacant WBO bantamweight title he later vacated), Lorenzo Parra and Mauricio Martinez – and a no-decision against Jesus Rojas on the Manny Pacquiao-Timothy Bradley undercard.
FUTURE: The four-division world titleholder hopes to become the first Mexican to make it five by winning a belt at featherweight. Was negotiating at press time to face RING champion Nonito Donaire in a compelling and lucrative matchup.
THINK ABOUT IT: Reportedly has asked for a million dollars to face Donaire. Hey, it doesn't hurt to ask.

66 BILLY DIB

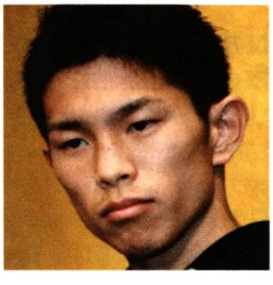
DIVISION: Featherweight (IBF titleholder)
RECORD: 35-1 (21 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: Unranked
STATUS REPORT: Made two successful defenses of his IBF title, impressively stopping Alberto Servidei in one round in November 2011 and then ending the night of Eduardo Escobedo in six in March. Also outpointed Antonio Rodriguez in a non-title fight in July.
FUTURE: Another caught up in the TMT (Mayweather-50 Cent) business. Seems to be with Mayweather so expect him to fight in Australia before appearing on the undercard next time "Money" fights.
THINK ABOUT IT: Has improved tenfold since his lone loss four years ago to Steven Luevano, in which he performed so poorly it looked highly unlikely we'd ever see him on American television again.

67 ZAB JUDAH



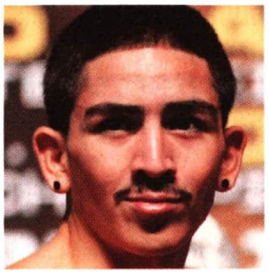
DIVISION: Junior welterweight
RECORD: 42-7 (29 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: Unranked
STATUS REPORT: Looked to be on his way down after losing almost every second of every round to Amir Khan last year but, in true Zab Judah fashion, he bounced back with his best win in years, knocking out previously unbeaten Vernon Paris in nine rounds in March. Has fought only that once in more than a year.
FUTURE: Paris win pushed him back into the title picture. Could be in line to fight the Danny Garcia-Erik Morales II winner; a fight against Garcia would especially be a big event at Barclays Center.
THINK ABOUT IT: Has more lives than the proverbial cat, usually losing to the very best but beating the second-tier guys. And keeps getting more opportunities because of his name.

68 KAZUTO IOKA



DIVISION: Strawweight
RECORD: 10-0 (6 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: Unranked
STATUS REPORT: Impressively took out Thai novice Yodgoen Tor Chalermchai in only 98 seconds to retain his WBC title last December. In June, narrowly eked out a decision win over Akira Yaegashi in the first ever all-Japanese unification fight. He then vacated his titles.
FUTURE: Enjoying some time off after the gruelling Yaegashi bout. Rumored to be contemplating a move up to junior flyweight.
THINK ABOUT IT: Won the world title in fewer pro bouts than any other Japanese boxer ever. Also won the same title his uncle Hiroki had held 23 years before.

69 LEO SANTA CRUZ

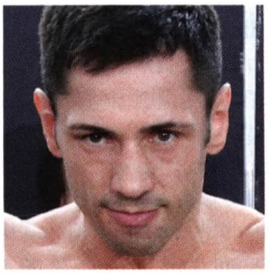


DIVISION: Bantamweight (IBF titleholder)
RECORD: 21-0-1 (12 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: Unranked
STATUS REPORT: Appears to be a rising, body-bruising star. Stopped Jorge Romero and Alejandro Hernandez before his coming out party, an impressive unanimous decision over Vusi Malinga to win the vacant IBF title in June. First defense was a career-best win over Eric Morel, who was stopped in the fifth round in September.
FUTURE: "Teremoto" seems ready for anyone at 118. Scheduled to return on Nov. 10 in Los Angeles, but no opponent has been selected. Has talked about moving up to 122 pounds.
THINK ABOUT IT: Comes from a boxing background. Elder brothers Jose and Roberto boxed professionally with varying success.

70 ERIK MORALES

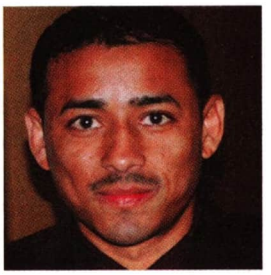
DIVISION: Junior welterweight
RECORD: 52-8 (36 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 59
STATUS REPORT: Was fighting on almost even terms with Danny Garcia until the 11th round in their first fight, in March, when Garcia's youth took over and he dropped "El Terrible" to seal the win.
FUTURE: Was scheduled to face Garcia in a rematch on Oct. 20. A victory will have given him the RING title and more big-money fights. A loss, particularly a bad one, will have raised the possibility of retirement.
THINK ABOUT IT: Returned to boxing in 2010 after 3½ years off, after many dismissed him as a has been, yet was able to become Mexico's first four-division world titleholder when he won the WBC 140-pound strap.

71 FELIX STURM



DIVISION: Middleweight
RECORD: 37-3-2 (16 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 72
STATUS REPORT: Might have declined to some degree but continues to fight at an elite level at 33. Drew with capable Martin Murray last December, posted one of his best wins in years by stopping fellow German Sebastian Zbik in nine rounds in April and then lost a close decision to rising star Daniel Geale in September.
FUTURE: Still has enough cache in Germany for at least a few more big fights. Rumors before he lost to Geale were that he would face Arthur Abraham.
THINK ABOUT IT: Has been criticized for fighting exclusively in Germany, but let's not forget that he visited America back in 2004 and lost what many considered a very debatable decision to Oscar De La Hoya.

72 GIOVANI SEGURA



DIVISION: Flyweight
RECORD: 28-2-1 (24 KOs)
LAST YEARS RANKING: 9
STATUS REPORT: Hasn't fought since he broke his jaw in an eighth-round knockout loss to a rejuvenated Brian Viloria last December in the Philippines.
FUTURE: Scheduled to face Glenn Donaire on Dec. 8 in Mexico.
THINK ABOUT IT: Had climbed onto some pound-for-pound lists on the back of two victories over Ivan Calderon, who in retrospect was likely past his prime.

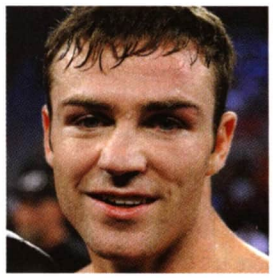
73 NATHAN CLEVERLY

DIVISION: Light heavyweight (WBO titleholder)
RECORD: 24-0 (11 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 84
STATUS REPORT: One of the U.K.'s brightest young stars went behind enemy lines to score a majority-decision victory over Tony Bellew in a British grudge match in October 2011. Then made his long-awaited return to Wales in February, winning a shutout against Tommy Karpency.
FUTURE: Had hoped to land a unification bout with Beibut Shumenov or fight the iconic Bernard Hopkins. Instead, was scheduled to face Ryan Coyne on Nov. 10 in Los Angeles, his second fight in the U.S.
THINK ABOUT IT: Has a degree in mathematics. Followed his boyhood hero Joe Calzaghe into boxing.

74 YOTA SATO

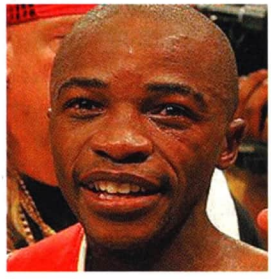
DIVISION: Junior bantamweight (WBC titleholder)
RECORD: 25-2-1 (12 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: Unranked
STATUS REPORT: Demonstrated that he is a fighter on the rise by outpointing talented Suriyan Sor Rungvisai to win the WBC title in March in Tokyo. He followed that with a successful defense against Sylvester Lopez, who was outpointed in Yokohama. Stopped then unbeaten Kenji Oba in the fourth round in November 2011 to set up the title-winning fight.
FUTURE: Scheduled to defend against unbeaten Ryo Akaho on Dec. 31 in Tokyo.
THINK ABOUT IT: Dreamed of winning a world title after watching Mike Tyson as a kid.

75 MATTHEW MACKLIN



DIVISION: Middleweight
RECORD: 29-4 (20 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 74
STATUS REPORT: Despite going 1-1, stock increased after a very solid effort against Sergio Martinez, who had to work to get the stoppage in the 11th round. Macklin then took out solid Joachim Alcine in the first round.
FUTURE: Nothing planned but the Alcine KO puts him in prime position for an important fight. Possible opponents include an all-British cast of Darren Barker, Billy Joe Saunders, Andy Lee and Martin Murray.
THINK ABOUT IT: Macklin isn't known as a big puncher but he now has seven first-round knockouts.

76 MORUTI MTHALANE



DIVISION: Flyweight (IBF titleholder)
RECORD: 29-2 (20 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: Unranked
Status Report: Scored a seventh-round TKO against Andrea Sarritzu, then 10 months later stopped Ricardo Nunez in eight rounds.
FUTURE: Nothing was scheduled at press time.
THINK ABOUT IT: Countrymen Jeffrey Mathebula and Vusi Malinga have lost world title fights on the road. Mthalane has successfully defended twice on foreign shores, stopping Andrea Sarritzu in Italy and Nunez.

77 TOSHIYUKI IGARASHI

DIVISION: Flyweight (RING/WBC titleholder)
RECORD: 16-1-1 (10 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: Unranked
STATUS REPORT: Claimed the RING and WBC titles with a disputed split-decision victory over Sonny Boy Jaro in July in Japan, Igarashi's home country. Defeated Wilbert Uicab by a unanimous decision in an eliminator in November 2011.
FUTURE: Was scheduled to defend on Nov. 3 against unbeaten but little known Argentine Nestor Narvaez.
THINK ABOUT IT: Graduated from Tokyo University prior to taking up boxing.

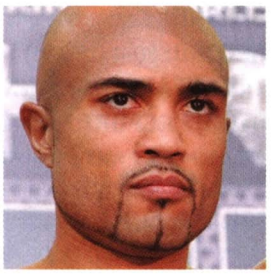
78 TAKAHIRO AO

DIVISION: Junior lightweight (WBC titleholder)
RECORD: 23-2-1 (10 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: Unranked
STATUS REPORT: The former featherweight titleholder has thrived at junior lightweight, going 6-0 at 130 pounds. That includes four title fights. In the past year, defeated then-unbeaten Devis Boschiero by a split decision to retain his title in November 2011 in Japan and then more easily outpointed Terdsak Kokietgym in April.
FUTURE: Was scheduled to make his fourth title defense against Gamaliel Diaz on Oct. 27.
THINK ABOUT IT: A title-unification bout between Ao and Takashi Uchiyama would do huge business in Japan.

79 OLA AFOLABI

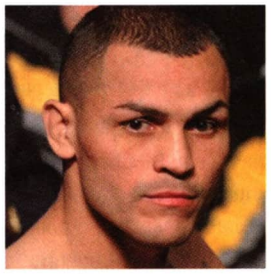
DIVISION: Cruiserweight
RECORD: 19-2-4 (9 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: Unranked
STATUS REPORT: Proved again in a majority draw in his rematch with Marco Huck in May that he can compete with the best but still seeks a defining victory. Huck narrowly outpointed Afolabi in 2009. Forced capable Valery Brudov to retire after five rounds in March.
FUTURE: Nothing was planned at press time. Of course, would like another crack at Huck.
THINK ABOUT IT: Of Nigerian descent, raised in Britain, lives in Los Angeles, and is promoted by K2 in Germany.

80 GABRIEL CAMPILLO



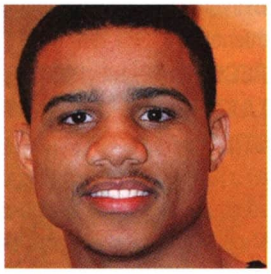
DIVISION: Light heavyweight
RECORD: 21-4-1 (8 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: Unranked
STATUS REPORT: Spaniard deserves a break, having landed on the wrong side of disputed decisions in four of his biggest fights. Latest frustration was a split-decision loss to American Tavoris Cloud in February in Texas, a fight many believe he won. He also lost a majority decision to Karo Murat, against whom he later drew, and fell to Beibut Shumenov by a split decision.
FUTURE: Was scheduled to face Sergey Kovalev in September before a back injury forced the 33-year-old to pull out.
THINK ABOUT IT: The only clear loss on his record was a sixth-round knockout against Vyacheslav Uzelkov in 2007.

81 MIKE ALVARADO



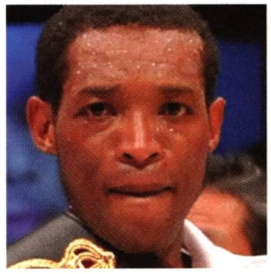
DIVISION: Junior welterweight
RECORD: 33-1 (23 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: Unranked
STATUS REPORT: Alvarado was in position to become a major star in an unforgettable brawl against Brandon Rios on Oct. 13 but came up short, as Rios scored a seventh-round KO. Still, Alvarado scored points with fans with an exciting performance. Was behind on the cards with a badly lacerated lip going into the last round against Breidis Prescott, scored the dramatic KO in November 2011. Outpointed Mauricio Herrera in April.
FUTURE: Promoter Bob Arum knows he has a marketable commodity in Alvarado. He'll be back.
THINK ABOUT IT: Has yet to fight for a world title even though he's 32 and has been a pro since 2004.

82 ANDRE DIRRELL



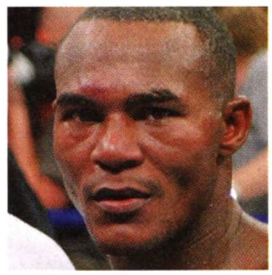
DIVISION: Super middleweight
RECORD: 20-1 (14 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: Unranked
STATUS REPORT: Ability is there. Now he must get busy. Has fought only once in more than 2½ years, a second-round KO over Darryl Cunningham last December, after he suffered a brain injury in his fight against Arthur Abraham in March 2010. Could shoot up this list with one or two meaningful victories.
FUTURE: Nothing planned at press time.
THINK ABOUT IT: Supremely gifted southpaw might be the only fighter at 168 or 175 pounds who could give Olympic teammate Andre Ward trouble.

83 CELESTINO CABALLERO



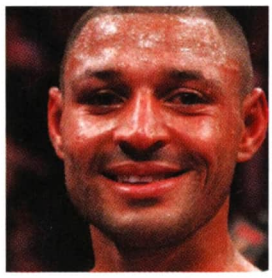
DIVISION: Featherweight
RECORD: 36-4 (23 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 22
STATUS REPORT: One-time pound-for-pound candidate rebounded from back-to-back losses in 2010 and 2011 to win twice in the past year, unanimous decisions over Jonathan Victor Barros (in a rematch of a disputed split-decision loss) and in October 2011 and Satoshi Hosono last December in Hosono's home country of Japan. Lanky and athletic, remains an awkward stylistic problem for anyone.
FUTURE: Nothing scheduled at press time. Had joined forces with TMT, the short-lived promotional company of Floyd Mayweather Jr. and 50 Cent.
THINK ABOUT IT: Panamanian has fought his last six fights on the road, all but one time in hostile territory.

84 JOAN GUZMAN



DIVISION: Junior welterweight
RECORD: 33-0-1 (20 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 65
STATUS REPORT: Is he finally focused 100 percent on the task at hand? Guzman is fighting regularly and making weight, which has been a major challenge in his career. Went 3-0 in the past year, stopping limited opponents Florencio Castellano, Jesus Pabon and Jorge Pimentel.
FUTURE: Was scheduled to face unbeaten Khabib Allakhverdiev for the vacant WBA junior welterweight title on Nov. 30 in Sunrise, Fla.
THINK ABOUT IT: Guzman is known for his weight issues but is undeniably talented. Won titles at 122 and 130 pounds. Could've won another at 126 had Scott Harrison not pulled out of their fight. Defeated Ali Funeka in what was supposed to be a 135-pound title fight but failed to make weight. That means he could have been going for a title in his fifth division.

85 KELL BROOK

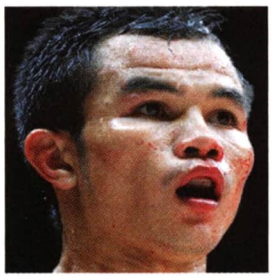


DIVISION: Welterweight
RECORD: 28-0 (18 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: Unranked
STATUS REPORT: Had a productive past year. Stopped Luis Galarza in five rounds last December in Atlantic City, N.J. Fairly easily outpointed fellow Englishman Matthew Hatton in March back in Britain. And then he showed some vulnerability but a lot of heart by gutting out a majority-decision victory over underrated Carson Jones in July.
FUTURE: Was scheduled to face Argentine puncher Hector Saldivia in an IBF title eliminator on Oct. 20 in what will be his third consecutive fight in his home town of Sheffield, England. Has said he wants to fight Amir Khan.
THINK ABOUT IT: Brook vs. Hatton, called "War of the Roses," reportedly was the most-watched fight of the year in Britain.

86 HOZUMI HASEGAWA

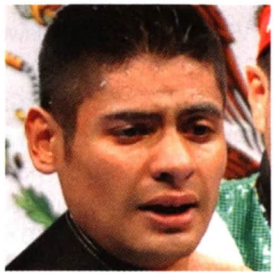
DIVISION: Featherweight
RECORD: 30-4 (13 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 29
STATUS REPORT: Has fought only once since he was stopped in four rounds by Jhonny Gonzalez in April 2011 in Kobe, Hasegawa's home town. In his return to the ring, stopped then-unbeaten but little-known Mexican Felipe Carlos Felix in seven rounds this past April in Tokyo.
FUTURE: Was scheduled to fight on Dec. 22 in Kobe, although no opponent had been selected at press time.
THINK ABOUT IT: Outpointed Thai legend Veeraphol Sahaprom to win the WBC 118-pound title in 2005 and successfully defended it 10 times before losing it to Fernando Montiel in 2010. Also briefly reigned as the WBC 126-pound titleholder.

87 P. WONJONGKAM



DIVISION: Flyweight
RECORD: 87-4-2 (46 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 8
STATUS REPORT: Has plummeted from last year's position as a result of his stunning sixth-round knockout loss to limited Sonny Boy Jaro in March, which cost Wonjongkam his RING championship. Rebounded to defeat four marginal opponents.
FUTURE: At 35 and closing on 100 fights, has all most certainly seen better days but is likely to gain another title opportunity in 2013.
THINK ABOUT IT: Greatest flyweight of recent years had ruled as WBC titleholder for over a decade in two separate reigns totalling 26 title bouts. Beat nine past or present world titleholders during that run.

88 JUAN CARLOS SALGADO

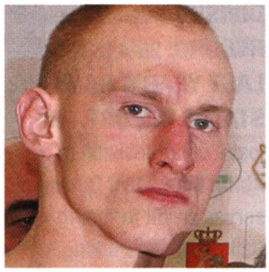


DIVISION: Junior lightweight (IBF titleholder)
RECORD: 26-1-1 (16 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 92
STATUS REPORT: In his second reign as a junior lightweight titleholder. Had so-so past year. Title defense against Miguel Beltran Jr. was declared no-contest in the second round when Salgado was cut and couldn't continue last December. Defeated Martin Honorio by a close majority decision in April. And, in his most satisfying performance, defeated Jonathan Victor Barros by a clear unanimous decision in August.
FUTURE: Nothing scheduled at press time. Had hoped to face Yuriorkis Gamboa in November but that fight didn't materialize. Has a mandatory defense against Argenis Mendez coming up.
THINK ABOUT IT: His coming out party was a startling first-round KO over Jorge Linares in 2009.

89 TOMASZ ADAMEK

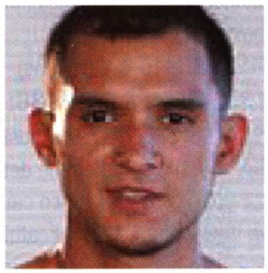
DIVISION: Heavyweight
RECORD: 47-2 (29 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 51
STATUS REPORT: Evidently can handle any heavyweight not named Klitschko. Is 9-1 as a heavyweight, losing only to Vitali Klitschko. Went 3-0 in the past year, outpointing Nagy Aguilera and Eddie Chambers before stopping Travis Walker in five rounds. Some believe the 36-year-old is slowing down but he still finds ways to win.
FUTURE: Scheduled to meet fellow former cruiserweight Steve Cunningham on Dec. 22. Adamek defeated Cunningham by a split decision to take the American's IBF 200-pound title and win THE RING championship in 2008.
THINK ABOUT IT: Has engaged in eight world title fights in three divisions over the last seven-plus years, winning six of them. Only Klitschko and Chad Dawson have beaten him in title fights.

90 KRZYSZTOF WLODARCZYK



DIVISION: Cruiserweight (WBC titleholder)
RECORD: 47-2-1 (33 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: Unranked
STATUS REPORT: Bout of depression threatened the Pole's career last year but he recovered and got back to doing what he does best – posting victories. Was behind on all three cards but stopped Danny Green in 11 rounds in November 2011, then defeated Francisco Palacios by a clear unanimous in a rematch of their 2010 fight, which Wlodarcyzk won by split decision.
FUTURE: Murmurs from his camp suggest he wants a big fight, although that might take a title-unification bout.
THINK ABOUT IT: Whatever happened to the idea of a cruiserweight version of the Super Six tournament? All the titleholders fight in Europe and are either with Wilfred Sauerland or have working relationships with him.

91 JUAN CARLOS SANCHEZ JR.

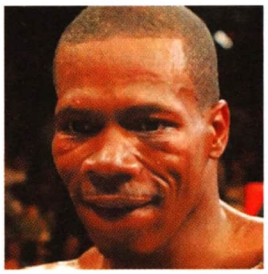


DIVISION: Junior bantamweight (IBF titleholder)
RECORD: 15-1-1 (8 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: Unranked
STATUS REPORT: Only 21, appears to have an immense upside. Consider his past year: Came from nowhere to take the IBF belt from Rodrigo Guerrero by a unanimous decision in February, almost shut out grizzled former champion Juan Alberto Rosas in May and stopped Rodel Mayol in nine rounds in September.
FUTURE: Nothing scheduled at press time. Must face Roberto Sosa soon as the Argentine won a title eliminator.
THINK ABOUT IT: Youngest current world titleholder doesn't turn 22 until January. From the boxer factory known as Los Mochis, Mexico.

92 DENVER CUELLO

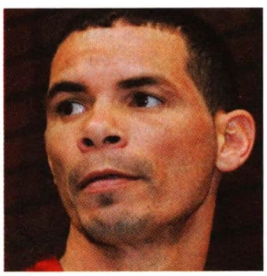
DIVISION: Strawweight
RECORD: 32-4-6 (21 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: Unranked
STATUS REPORT: Shamelessly avoided by the other top strawweights but, because this is boxing's smallest weight class, it gets little attention. Was passed over when the WBC title became vacant. Has four wins in the past year, knockouts of Carlos Perez, Kid Suryana and Ganigan Lopez, and a decision over Ivan Meneses.
FUTURE: The victory over Lopez was a WBC final eliminator, which should mean a title shot is around the corner. The WBC 105-pound title is vacant.
THINK ABOUT IT: Has only one loss (a disqualification) in the past six years, a span of 28 fights.

93 CORNELIUS BUNDRAGE



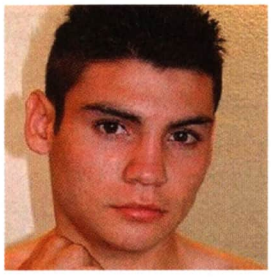
DIVISION: Junior middleweight (IBF titleholder)
RECORD: 32-4 (19 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 94
STATUS REPORT: Can still bring it at 39. Fought only once in the past year, a seventh-round knockout of declining Cory Spinks in June.
FUTURE: Recently signed with Golden Boy Promotions, which has a deep stable of junior middleweights. Has said he wants to face Saul Alvarez. Expected to fight early next year.
THINK ABOUT IT: Was a contestant on The Contender reality TV series in 2006. Lost to Steve Forbes in the semifinals.

94 RICHARD ABRIL



DIVISION: Lightweight
RECORD: 17-3-1 (8 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: Unranked
STATUS REPORT: Gave weight-drained Brandon Rios fits for 12 rounds but ended up losing a hotly disputed split decision in April. Victory would've been a major breakthrough for the Cuban, whose skills and awkward style could make life miserable for anyone. However, even in defeat, he demonstrated that he can compete with the best. He had outpointed talented Miguel Acosta in October 2011.
FUTURE: Was scheduled to fight Sharif Bogere for the vacant WBA title on Nov. 24. Abril probably needs a major title as a marketing tool because he is not an exciting fighter.
THINK ABOUT IT: Is able to travel freely between Cuba and the U.S. after winning a lottery in his home country; well-known Cuban boxers like Gamboa and Rigondeaux can't do this because they defected.

95 MARIO RODRIGUEZ

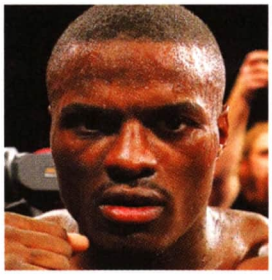


DIVISION: Strawweight (IBF titleholder)
RECORD: 15-6-4 (11 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: Unranked
STATUS REPORT: Was losing on the scorecards when the determined 24-year-old from Mexico caught up to then-unbeaten Nkosinathi Joyi and knocked him out in the seventh round to win the IBF title in September. Was his second title shot. Lost a one-sided decision to then-WBO beltholder Donnie Nietes in 2010. Rodriguez stopped Gilberto Keb Baas and Armando Vazquez before meeting Joyi.
FUTURE: Could be headed to South Africa for a rematch with Joyi, which would allow him to prove the first victory was no fluke.
THINK ABOUT IT: Learned the hard way. Turned pro at 17 and went 7-5-1 in his first 13 fights; 8-1-3 since. First world titleholder from Guasave, in Sinaloa.

97 STEVE CUNNINGHAM

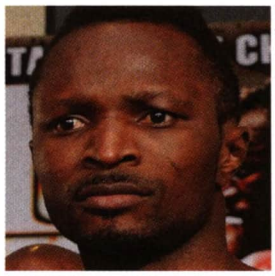
DIVISION: Heavyweight
RECORD: 25-4 (12 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 62
STATUS REPORT: Made the bold move up to heavyweight after dropping a unanimous decision to Yoan Pablo Hernandez for the vacant RING cruiserweight championship in February. Nearly shut out journeyman Jason Gavern in his heavyweight debut in September, losing only one round on one card in the 10-round bout. Weighed only 207 pounds.
FUTURE: Meets Tomasz Adamek in a rematch on Dec. 22 in what has all the makings of a pre-Christmas treat. Adamek won their entertaining first fight by split decision in 2008.
THINK ABOUT IT: At 36, former member of the U.S. Navy could be slowing down. He was never a big puncher and has been down at cruiserweight. Has tough task ahead as a heavyweight.

99 PETER QUILLIN



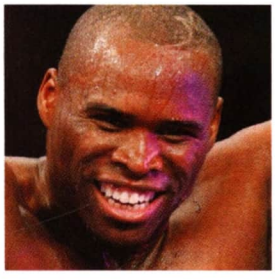
DIVISION: Middleweight
RECORD: 28-0 (20 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: Unranked
STATUS REPORT: Heavy-handed boxer stopped capable Craig McEwan in six rounds in November 2011 and widely outpointed former star Winky Wright in June. Has the makings of a future star, although he has much to prove.
FUTURE: "Kid Chocolate" was scheduled to face Hassan N'dam for the WBO title on Oct. 20 in his hometown of Brooklyn, N.Y.
THINK ABOUT IT: Son of a Cuban immigrant borrowed the nickname of the Hall of Famer from Cuba. Born in Grand Rapids, Mich., calls Brooklyn home and trains out of the Wild Card Boxing Club in Hollywood, Calif.

96 JOSEPH AGBEKO



DIVISION: Bantamweight
RECORD: 28-4 (22 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 52
STATUS REPORT: Former titleholder lost a clear decision in his rematch to Abner Mares last December but deserves credit for being willing to go to California and making Mares work for the win. That was his only fight in the past year.
FUTURE: Nothing scheduled at press time. Now a free agent after his contract with Don King expired.
THINK ABOUT IT: Has lost three of his last four bouts but all three losses were against the very best at 118 pounds. Is closing in on his 33rd birthday. Can he make another title run?

98 ADONIS STEVENSON



DIVISION: Super middleweight
RECORD: 19-1 (16 KOs)
LAST YEARS RANKING: Unranked
STATUS REPORT: Has six consecutive knockouts since he was stopped by Darnell Boone in 2010. That includes four in a productive past year, over Aaron Pryor (ninth round), Jesus Gonzales (first), Noe Gonzalez Alcoba (second) and Don George (12th).
FUTURE: Now the IBF mandatory challenger to Carl Froch, a fight that could happen next year. Likes to stay busy, though. Won't sit around and wait too long.
THINK ABOUT IT: Coming into his own at the relatively advanced age of 35. Having had Manny Steward as your teacher doesn't hurt.

100 VANES MARTIROSYAN

DIVISION: Junior middleweight
RECORD: 32-0 (20 KOs)
LAST YEAR'S RANKING: 80
STATUS REPORT: Fought twice, scoring a workmanlike decision over Colombian tough guy Richard Gutierrez last October in the boxing outpost of Thackerville, Ok., then stopping aging veteran Troy Lowry in three in February.
FUTURE: Meets highly skilled Cuban Erislandy Lara on Nov. 10, in a fight that looks tough on paper and will most likely be equally tough in the ring.
THINK ABOUT IT: A 2004 American Olympian who, while possessing a stellar record, doesn't really have anyone of note on his ledger. If by the time you've read this he's beaten Lara, though, he'll have become the mandatory for Saul Alvarez.

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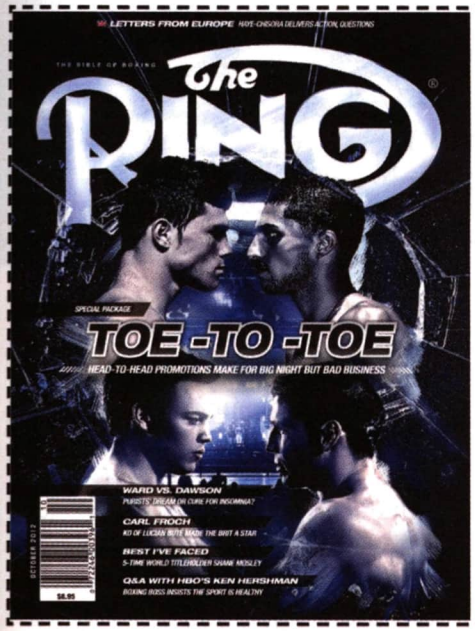

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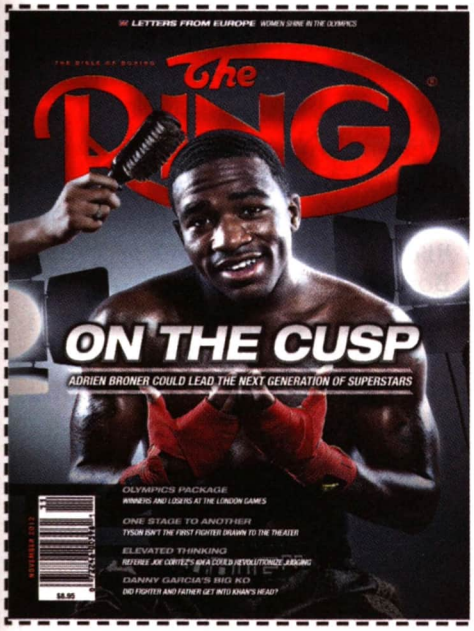

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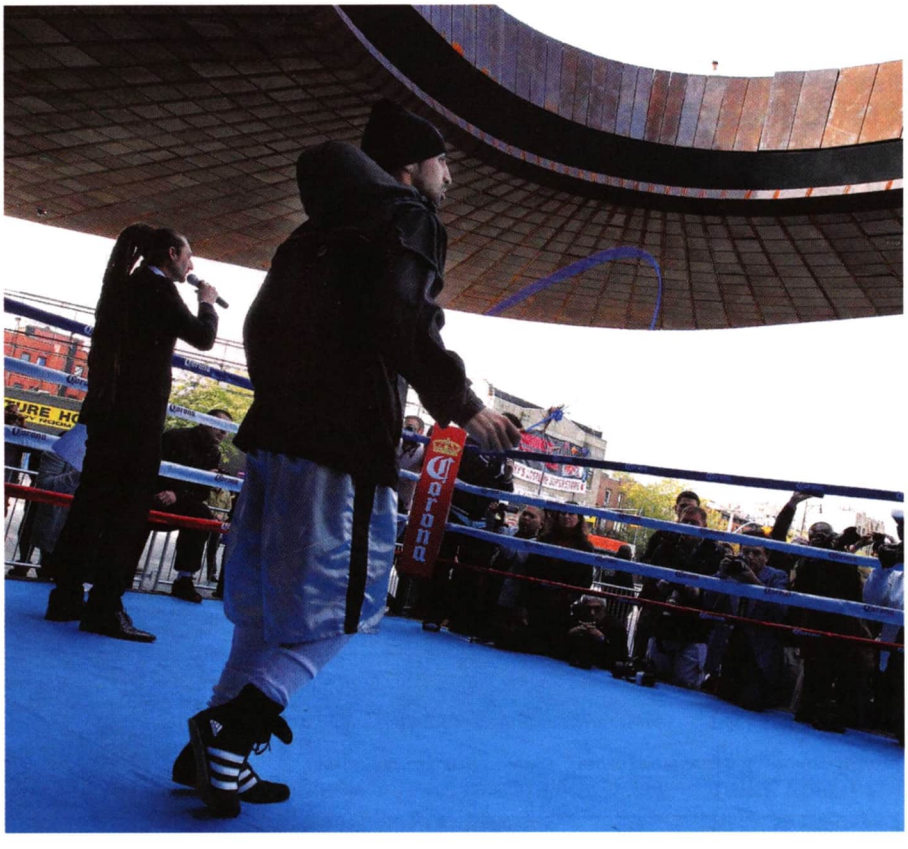
Boxing has another important venue in Barclays Center, the new home of the NBA's Brooklyn Nets. **Image: Naoki Fukuda**

BACK IN BUSINESS

BIG-TIME BOXING HAS FOUND A NEW HOME AT BROOKLYN'S BARCLAYS CENTER



Brooklyn's own Paulie Malignaggi works out in front of the hometown fans to promote the Oct. 20 card. **Tom Casino-Showtime**

By **Tim Smith**

As a young amateur boxer from Bensonhurst, Brooklyn, Paulie Malignaggi had dueling dreams. One was to become a world champion and the other was to defend that title in his hometown before a sold-out crowd in a major arena. Malignaggi was four decades removed from Brooklyn being a hotbed of boxing in New York, though, so his dreams tended to run toward Madison Square Garden, nicknamed "The Mecca of Boxing."

"I never imagined there would be a place in Brooklyn to defend my world title," Malignaggi said. "I never even considered it a possibility."

When Malignaggi heard that Barclays Center, the home of the Nets on the corner of Atlantic

and Flatbush in downtown Brooklyn, was going to hold regular boxing shows, he made it his business – hounding his promoters at Golden Boy and putting the squeeze on Brett Yormark, the CEO of Barclays Center – to be on the first show at the arena. On Oct. 20, when he met Pablo Cesar Cano to defend his WBA welterweight title, Malignaggi's wish came true.

"It's unbelievable because I will always be able to tell my children and grandchildren that I defended my world title on the very first card at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn," Malignaggi said. "It's going to be a part of history."

The card that Malignaggi spoke of was the first world championship boxing event in Brooklyn in 81 years. The one before that featured Maxie Rosenbloom defending his light heavyweight championship with a 15-round decision against Jimmy Slattery at Ebbets Field on Aug. 5, 1931.

The future shows at Barclays have a lot to live up to with the rich history of boxing in New York's most populous borough, which has had two golden ages.

The first started in the late 19th century when thirteen title fights were held in Brooklyn during the 1890s. George Dixon, a bantamweight and featherweight who was the first black boxer to win a world championship, fought several times there in that time. James Jeffries KO'd Bob Fitzsimmons in the 11th round of a heavyweight title match at the Coney Island Athletic Club on June 9, 1899.

Ebbets Field, the home of the Brooklyn Dodgers, became a popular venue for boxing shows in the 1920s, hosting eight title matches. Pete Herman scored a 15-round decision over Joe Lynch in a bantamweight title match on July 25, 1921.

The second big boom in Brooklyn boxing, though, was from 1930-1950 when there were as many as 20 arenas and clubs operating weekly boxing shows.

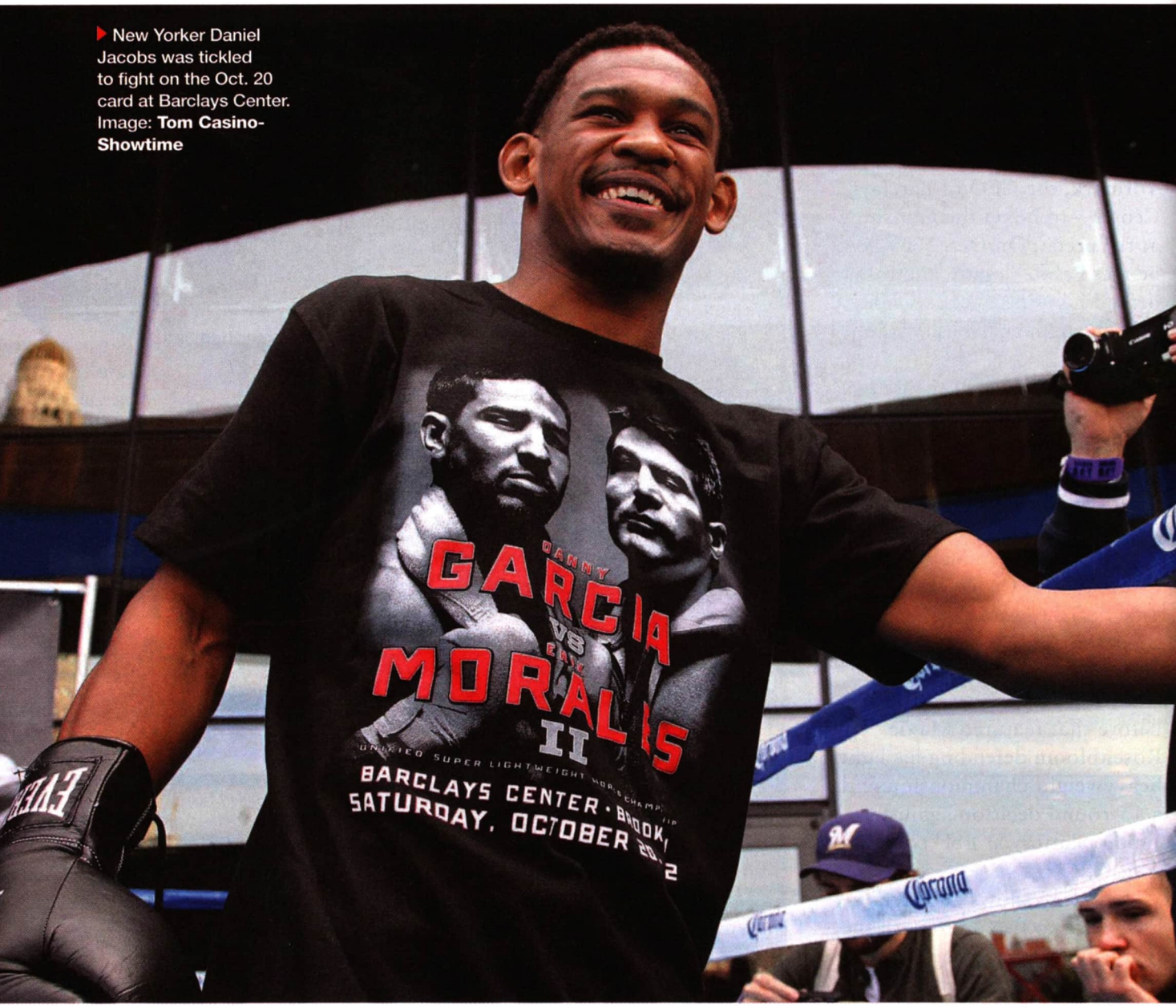
On almost any night of the week fans could see live boxing in Brooklyn. There was the Monday night shows at the Eastern Parkway Arena in Brownsville, which was called the "House of Upsets" when Teddy Brenner was the matchmaker. On Tuesday night you could catch a card at the 4,500-seat Broadway Arena in Bushwich. The Ridgewood Grove Arena, on the Brooklyn-Queens border at the corner of St. Nicholas Avenue and Palmetto Street, was the place to be on Saturday night.

Many of the old venues have been torn down. The site of the Coney Island Velodrome, with 10,000 seats, is now a high-rise apartment building. The Eastern

PAST VENUES

Once-popular Brooklyn boxing clubs and arenas

- Bay Ridge Stadium (AKA MacArthur Stadium) 15th Ave. and 86th St.
- Broadway Arena, 944 Halsey St., Bushwich
- Brooklyn Elks Lodge, Livingston St. and Boerum Place
- Coney Island Stadium (AKA Fugazy Bowl, named for promoter Humbert J. Fugazy) Surf Ave., near 61st St.
- Coney Island Velodrome, Neptune Ave. and West 12th
- Crescent Athletic Club, Shore Road and 85th St., Bay Ridge
- Eastern Parkway, 1435 Eastern Parkway, near Howard Ave., Brownsville
- Fort Hamilton Arena, Fort Hamilton Parkway and 99th St.
- Golden City Arena, Canarsie, Brooklyn
- Luna Park Arena, Surf Ave. and West 10th, Coney Island
- Palace of Joy Club, Coney Island
- Ridgewood Grove Arena, St. Nicholas Ave. and Palmetto St., on the Brooklyn-Queens border
- Stauch's Arena, Stillwell Ave., Bowery, Coney Island
- Vanderbilt Athletic Club



New Yorker Daniel Jacobs was tickled to fight on the Oct. 20 card at Barclays Center. Image: **Tom Casino-Showtime**

Parkway Arena became a super market, was later restored as a boxing arena, and is now a parking lot.

None of those venues ever had the luster that was associated with Madison Square Garden.

"All of the smaller venues in Brooklyn were like the minor leagues for the Garden," said Ron Scott Stevens, the former chairman of the New York State Athletic Commission and promoter and matchmaker in New York for the last 30 years.

"You'd have a guy who was a 10-round fighter at the club shows in Brooklyn and then he'd go over to the Garden and be a 6-round fighter. The Garden, which was also acted as a promoter then, would try to build up a lot of those fighters who got their start in Brooklyn and came over as 6-round fighters."

If the Brooklyn venues were the minor leagues, then the Eastern Parkway Arena was the Triple-A affiliate for boxers looking to headline at the Garden.

Emil Lence, a Brooklyn resident who was in the family's dress manufacturing business, bought the Eastern Parkway Arena as an indoor skating rink following World War II. Jack Dempsey convinced Lence and his father to turn the place into a 5,000-seat boxing arena in 1947. They used the weekly shows as a kind of "New York's Got Talent" boxing showcase. One of their biggest successes was a 17-year-old Floyd Patterson, who cut his teeth at the venue as a young pro before becoming the youngest heavyweight champion at the time.

Lence also used the Eastern Parkway Arena as a springboard into a successful boxing promotion career. One of his biggest shows in New York was Patterson's first heavyweight title defense against Tommy "Hurricane" Jackson at the Polo Grounds in 1957. Jackson was a Lence protégé, but he didn't fare as well as Patterson, who stopped Jackson in 10 rounds.

In 1952 Brenner became the matchmaker at Eastern Parkway. Using the DuMont Television Network's Monday night fight broadcasts and his unique ability to make even matches, Brenner turned Brooklyn boxing into must-see TV. The matches were so good that during Brenner's tenure at Eastern Parkway 57 of the 156 television bouts were later booked as rematches at Madison Square Garden.

Around the same time that boxing ratings for the Eastern Parkway shows began to decline in 1955, so did the popularity of live boxing shows in Brooklyn. Most of the venues had closed their doors by the end of the decade.

The shows have had limited success since then. Shortly after he opened the doors to Gleason's Gym under the Brooklyn Bridge in 1987, Bruce Silverglade opened Gleason's Arena down the street. Stevens said he ran shows out of the arena for two years.

"I did about a dozen shows, running every other month and we had guys like Lou Del Valle, Ricky Stewart and Kevin Kelley," Stevens said. "We had great crowds in the arena, which had about 1,000 seats. Most shows we had standing room only. But the shows were expensive to put on. I needed to sell out to break even. The best show I ever had there was the closed circuit for Tyson and Spinks and we made $10,000."

The fans are still drawn to Oscar De La Hoya, whose company promoted the Oct. 20 card. Image: Rich Kane-Hoganphotos

"I think the future is unlimited. The key is not just being a landlord, but getting involved in the sport like we did at the Garden. ... It has to be the home to these boxers from the time they come up until they're champions ... ." — Bobby Goodman

Sadam Ali, a member of the 2008 U.S. Olympic boxing team who acts as his own promoter, and Kathy Duva, the president of Main Events Promotions, have recently done shows at the Aviator Sports Complex in Brooklyn, a 2,800-seat arena that also houses an ice skating rink and amusement rides. But it is nothing approaching the frequency of shows during the borough's heyday.

Bobby Goodman, a 73-year-old Bronx native who promoted boxing at Madison Square Garden from 1985-94, said the Barclays Center can revitalize boxing in Brooklyn, but the arena has to have a plan.

"I think the future is unlimited," said Goodman, a member of the Boxing Hall of Fame. "The key is not just being a landlord, but getting involved in the sport like we did at the Garden, where we developed our own champions like Buddy McGirt, Kevin Kelley and Junior Jones. It has to be the home to these boxers from the time they come up until they're champions, like we were at the Garden."

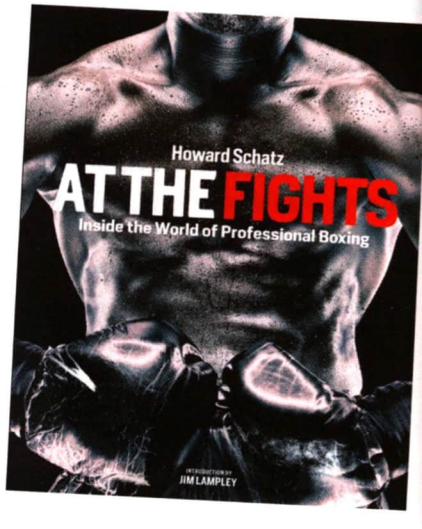
There is no lack of talent coming out of New York City's largest borough considering some of the more recent past champions like Riddick Bowe, Mike Tyson, Mark Breland, Zab Judah and Malignaggi. Now, when future Brooklyn boxers dream of fighting in front of a hometown crowd at a sold out major arena, those dreams don't have to drift to Manhattan. ■

This photo of Jean Pascal is a good example of how photographer Howard Schatz uses bold poses and stark lighting to create dramatic images.

PICTURE PERFECT

HOWARD SCHATZ'S BOOK OF PHOTOS PROVIDES A STUNNING PERSPECTIVE ON THE SPORT

By **Michael Rosenthal**



I think of the great photographer Ansel Adams when I see Howard Schatz's work. Adams captured the majesty of nature; Schatz does the same with boxers and others in the sport.

Schatz's new book – A*t the Fights, Inside the World of Professional Boxing* (Sports Illustrated) – is breathtaking. His forte is portraiture, in which bold poses, stark lighting and the creative use of various media result in striking images that capture the intensity of the sport.

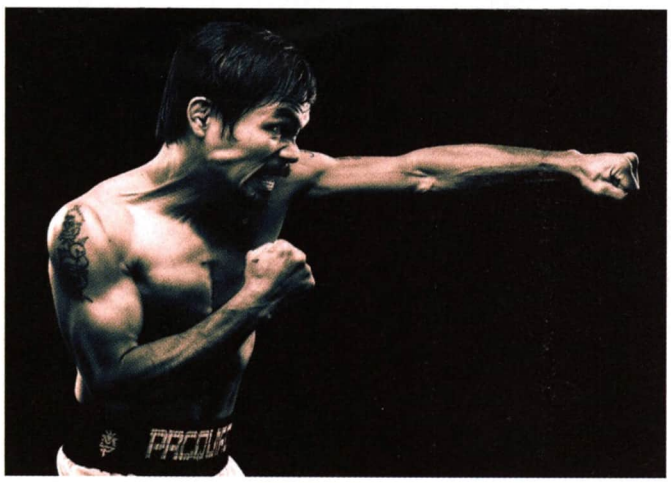
The most-compelling images are of the fighters themselves, whose dripping perspiration – whether real or a prop – speaks to the physical demands of a brutal sport.

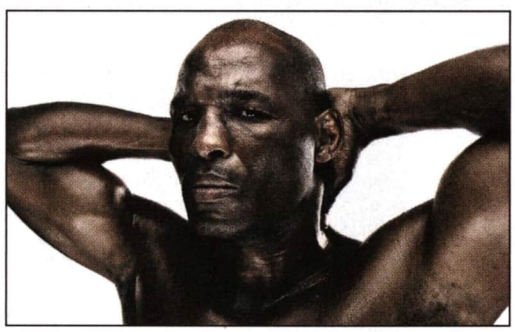
Schatz maintains your interest page after page with delightful creativity. Whether it's a stroboscopic effect (to evoke movement and energy) or media such as smoke or shadows (to add drama), each image has its own personality.

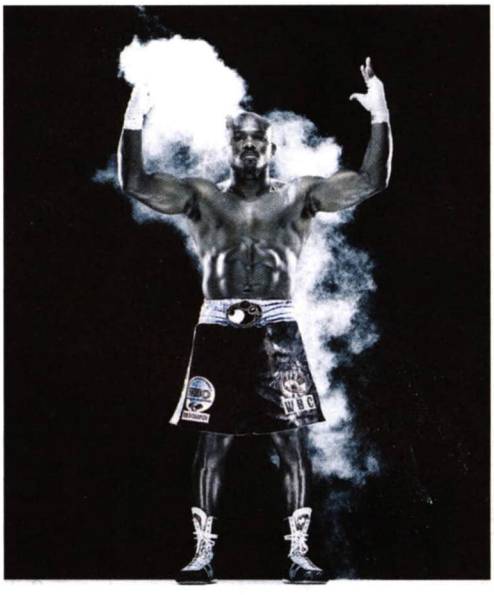
And, finally, it is all tied together by the succinct words of each subject that give the images added meaning.

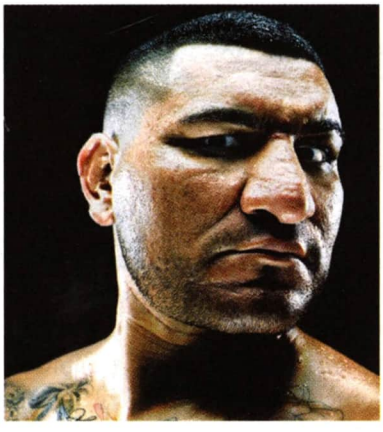
Words here couldn't do Schatz's six-year project justice, though. You have to pick up the book to understand.

This photo of Kelly Pavlik (above) is an example of how Schatz mixes media to evoke energy. And the images of Manny Pacquiao (left) and Bernard Hopkins below are typically striking.



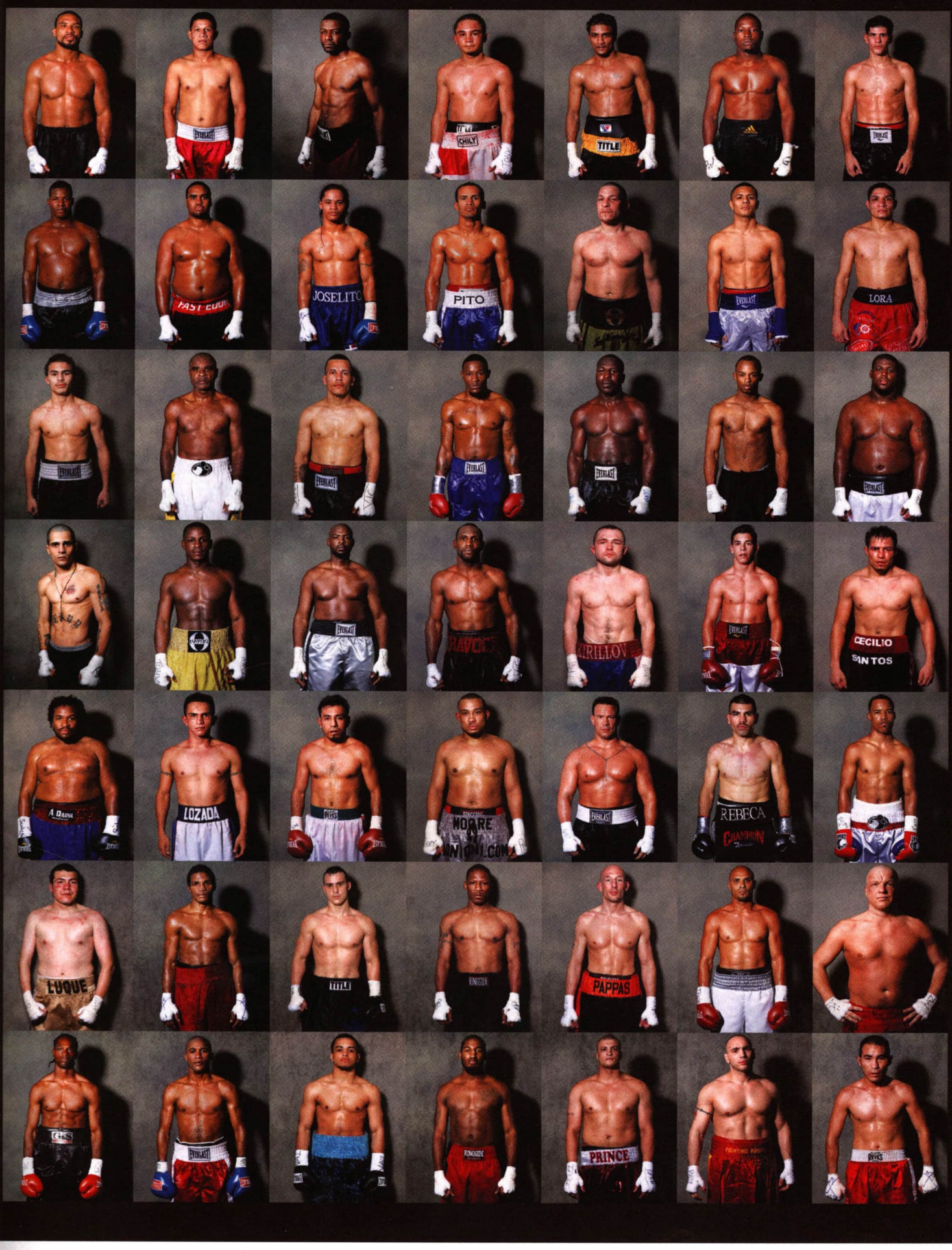






(Opposite page) Howard Schatz depicts the wide range of body types in boxing on the inside front and back covers. The series of Marco Huck (above) and images of Timothy Bradley (middle left) and Paulie Malignaggi (lower right) are examples of the creative techniques Schatz uses. Schatz also captures wonderful facial expressions, such as in this portrait of Chris Arreola (below left).

> To see more of Howard Schatz's work, go to www.howardschatz.com. For more information about the book, go to www.si.com/atthefights.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A SIMMERING RIVALRY

The rivalry between David Price (pictured celebrating his victory over Audley Harrison) and Tyson Fury is getting heated. Image: **Scott Heavey-Getty Images**

By **Gareth A Davies**

Giant British heavyweight David Price revealed that Kangaroo meat had dominated his diet in the build up to demolishing Audley Harrison, gone in 82 seconds. It may have been a bit of fun, but the 6-foot-8, unbeaten fighter from Liverpool reckoned his hair was growing quicker than usual (lucky for him his wife, Jade, is a men's barber) and his feet had grown from size 12 to 13. He also told me – tongue in cheek – there was a spring in his step and his skipping had been phenomenal in training.

But it was his arch-rival Tyson Fury who seemed hopping mad. (The puns will end eventually.) But serious enmity and an escalating war of words – some of it pretty ugly – is developing between the two fighters, while opinion remains divided on who would win in the event of their meeting in a ring. Price has yet to be pressured in his 14-fight career. The 6-foot-9 Fury, who clearly has a fighter's heart and an appetite for a scrap, also is untested at a high level.

Fury and Price were scheduled to face each other until Fury vacated the British and Commonwealth titles. Now, any meeting between the two huge men may not come any time soon. They have rival promoters and rival television companies. That age-old chestnut.

Price's promoter, Frank Maloney, has a deal for Price with Frank Warren's BoxNation subscription channel, while Mick Hennessy has a contract for Fury to fight on Channel 5, a network television channel. It was during a broadcast on Channel 5 that Fury, living up to his name, drew the critical attention of the

British Boxing Board after a diatribe aimed at Price. That was followed by a Twitter attack of withering proportions. Believe me, with Price from Liverpool, and Fury from Manchester, both unbeaten, this would be a north of England derby with serious juice.

Immediately after Price had beaten Harrison, Fury responded with a vicious outburst live on Channel 5: "To be honest, Harrison is the biggest bum in boxing. I'll fight David Price any day of the week." Then he said: "I'm going to put you in intensive care, that's for sure mate. And you know your gay lover Tony Bellew? He's got to fight me in between the rounds as well. I want the two of you, you pair of t-----s."

Hennessy chipped in with a comment of his own, insisting his heavyweight will fight Price once "we see him (Price) hit on the whiskers." From the other camp, Maloney countered with a $750,000 offer for Fury to face Price.

Then the tirade intensified. Fury, a born-again Christian, tweeted to Price: "I'm gonna smash your face in u ----house scouse ---- I look in your eyes and c fear! I'll take your sole and give it the devil."

Fury also warned: "Frank Maloney and David Price. I'm contacting your office in the morning you little midget. If you haven't got half a million (pounds sterling) that you've been bragging about, which I know you haven't, you're in deep trouble." It later emerged that Fury could face punishment by the British Boxing Board of Control after the succession of inflammatory comments.

Price, who faces Matt Skelton on Dec. 8, told me:"None of the fights with Americans [Price was talking of Seth Mitchell and Deontay Wilder] are going to happen any time soon, so that's not prominent in my mind. I could fight Derek Chisora, given that he can get his Boxing Board licence back."

"That fight could happen. Tyson Fury is a fight that probably couldn't happen for various reasons, one being the television situation. He's with Channel 5, we're with BoxNation. Although it's a cliche, I really don't look past the next opponent, but I do realize there is a lot of talent out there in the heavyweight division."

"The Tyson Fury situation was frustrating because of the belts; it was looking like it was going to happen for a while. I got myself ready for it mentally after all the talk and then they decided not to even try and win the purse bids."

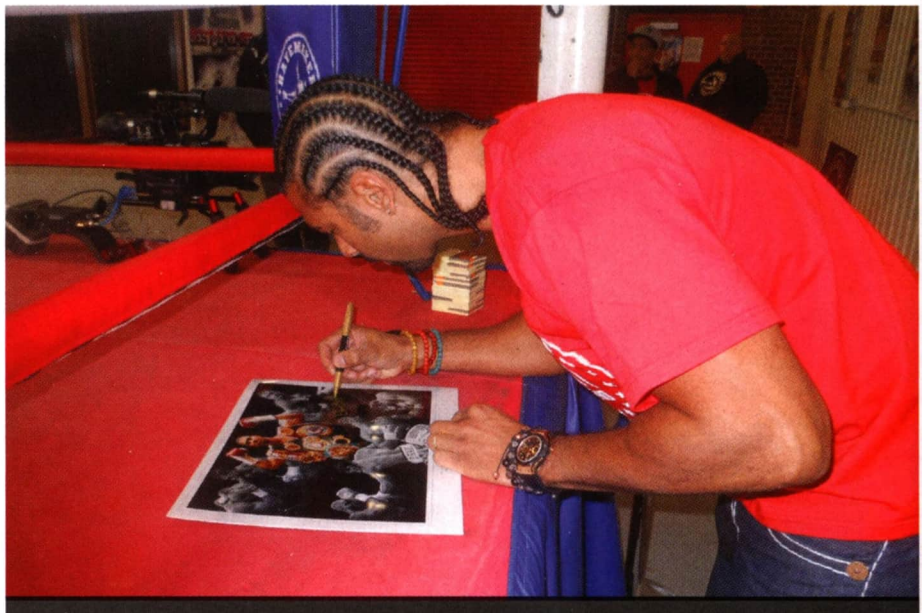
"The Klitschko situation is that we want to work on the mandatory route to fight for the world title, but that's the longer and more difficult route. But when you get there the rewards are greater than it just being a voluntary defense."

"The Klitschkos try to get you to fight them when you're on your way up. As a voluntary, the money probably wouldn't be great and you're probably not ready to fight them. As a mandatory, you've made sure that you've got yourself into the hardball position."

HAYE: OPENING DAY

Never let it be said that David Haye's penchant for playing the heel – at least when it comes to calling out the Klitschko brothers – has dinted his popularity. Perhaps it was his silencing of Dereck Chisora in the rebel grudge match that swung the pendulum his way after the summer.

When the south London heavyweight opened his gym to fans in September, more than 1,000 fans queued for pictures and his autograph. Some of them waiting four hours for a minute with the former WBA heavyweight champion. Haye, staggered by the response, spent nine hours meeting and greeting the faithful. It was the



Some fans waited hours to get David Haye's autograph at the opening of his new gym in London. Image: **Hayemaker Promotions**

▶ More than 1,000 fans queued to spend a minute with heavyweight contender David Haye. Image: **Hayemaker Promotions**

first time he had done such a thing.

"It was a way of giving the many fans who have followed me throughout my career an opportunity to have a photo and gain an autograph, but such a massive response really shocked me," said Haye. "My only regret was that I couldn't spend more time talking to each and every one of them, especially those who had their children with them."

The converted gym, which is housed inside an all-brick Victorian-period railway arch, closed that night at 9 p.m., having opened in the morning.

****

'IRONING MIKE TYSON'

In the UK for a dinner and signing tour, Mike Tyson stopped off for a media assignment at the famous Lillywhite's sports store in Piccadilly. An animated Tyson offered his views on everything from Ricky Hatton's comeback (which he approved of), to the heavyweight scene, to finding peace. And long may that endure. He finished the interview by admitting that if he had known at 19 what he knows now about himself and life itself, he would probably never have been the force he was in the ring. He finished the enlightening interview talking about growing older and wiser, saying: "Life's not about me anymore; it's not self-aggrandizing. I'm small in the scheme of things. My children are big. Now I've got to watch the kids until my wife comes back." The next day, one of the British tabloids had an interview with the once self-styled "baddest man on the planet" headlined "Ironing Mike Tyson." Classic.

****

BURNS: CHAMPION AND SHOP ASSISTANT

Ricky Burns. Man of the people. With six world title fights and one interim title contest in succession, and titles at both junior lightweight and lightweight, the quiet man from Coatbridge, in Lanarkshire, Scotland, has not changed an iota. Witness this: Days after he won each fight, he was selling sports socks, shoes, gumshields, gloves and pads to the public.

Remarkably, the current WBO lightweight champion still holds down a part-time job as a sales assistant in a sports store above the gym where he rigorously gets himself fit. After his last victory, when he knocked out British rival Kevin Mitchell in the fourth round, Burns took his wife on a brief sojourn to the United States, visiting Las Vegas for the first time – and Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s gym – and returned wide-eyed. Four days after getting home, he was back at DW Sports Fitness. I spoke to Margaret Sharpe, the sports store manager, who employed him there four years ago. Was she surprised that he kept coming back after six world title fights in a row?

"No, it keeps him grounded, and Ricky would never let us down. If anyone from our staff of 16 is ever sick or needs time off, Ricky is the first to volunteer to fill in," she

▶ Scott Quigg (right, against Jason Booth) joined some elite company when he was named the British Boxing Writers Club's Young Boxer of the Year. Image: **Leigh Dawney**

said. "I knew he was a boxer when I employed him, and he wanted to fill his time in between training. After work, he heads downstairs, where we have a gym, and where he is a member. We really admire him. I think he enjoys the company, too, as his job as a boxer is pretty intense."

Burns' work ethic has rubbed off on the store. Another from his stable has recently been employed there, too – David Brophy, an up-and-coming 22-year-old middleweight who is unbeaten in six professional contests.

****

QUIGG: 'YOUNG BOXER OF THE YEAR'

On Monday, Oct. 15, at The Savoy Hotel in London's theatre land, Scott Quigg received an accolade from the British Boxing Writers Club at the annual gala dinner that has been enjoyed before him by a pantheon of great British boxers. Quigg, 24, the former British junior featherweight title holder who has aspirations to earn a world title belt inside the next 12 months, joined an array of great fighters including Naseem Hamed, his own promoter Ricky Hatton, Joe Calzaghe, Nigel Benn, Frank Bruno, Barry McGuigan, John Conteh, John H Stracey, Ken Buchanan, Howard Winstone and Terry Downes, all of whom went on to become world champions after winning the award. Quigg is the 61st recipient.

Speaking after receiving the award, Quigg said: "I think I must be the only person ever to go into school, with his mum and dad, and ask to be expelled. School and education were not for me. All I ever wanted from the age of 13 was to become a professional boxer and to go on and become a world champion. My wish was granted."

"Not many parents would do that. Of course, I want to go on and become a world champion," added Quigg, "but as long as I'm making my parents proud for backing me for my decision to drop out of school and do what I love, to the day I die, as long as I'm making them proud, that's all that matters to me."

Over 300 dinner guests, including the good and great of British boxing rose as one to salute the awardee. A brilliant moment, from a young man who is a credit to boxing and a genuine role model. ■

Nonito Donaire dominated Toshiaki Nishioka in what was expected to be a competitive fight. Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

NONITO DONAIRE TKO 9 TOSHIAKI NISHIOKA

DATE: OCT. 13, 2012
SITE: HOME DEPOT CENTER, CARSON, CALIF.
DIVISION: JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHT
WEIGHTS: DONAIRE 121½; NISHIOKA 121¾
RING RATING (GOING INTO FIGHT): DONAIRE NO. 3; NISHIOKA NO. 1
NETWORK: HBO

Nonito Donaire captured THE RING's vacant 122-pound title by dropping Nishioka in the sixth and ninth rounds en route to a ninth-round TKO, but only after five forgettable rounds.

Donaire (30-1, 19 knockouts) scored the first knockdown with a picture-perfect left uppercut. Prior to that, he had the edge in the first five rounds by being the more active fighter and by taking more chances. Nishioka (39-5-3, 24 KOs) did little more than jab and block Donaire's punches – until he got caught.

"We just wanted him to make that mistake," said Donaire. "… He made that mistake by reaching in, and I got him with the uppercut. My hand was hurting a little bit, so we couldn't finish him off. So then I had to go with my right."

The Japanese veteran got up from the knockdown and took the fight to Donaire, launching one overhand left after the other until the bell. Nishioka stalked Donaire from that point on, which eventually played into the faster hands of the Filipino-American.

"The difference in the fight was speed," said Nishioka, who saw his winning streak that began in 2004 end at 16. "I never faced a fighter with the speed of Donaire. I never saw the uppercut."

Donaire, 29, got on his toes and counter-punched Nishioka, 36, in the seventh and eighth rounds, and willingly went to the ropes in the ninth to lure the southpaw in. The ploy worked as Donaire caught Nishioka with a big right hand while his back was on the ropes midway through the round.

Nishioka got up but he did so on wobbly legs, prompting his corner to ask referee Raul Caiz Sr. to stop the bout. The fight was halted at 1:54 of the ninth.

"When you do engage with me, and you open up yourself, Nonito is a surgeon," Donaire said. "Once that surgeon comes in, the demolition man comes in and knocks people out."

Donaire hinted that he's satisfied with his accomplishments at junior featherweight and might invade the featherweight division soon.

"At this point, I got the guy that I thought was the best in the division, and that was Nishioka, and now, it's anybody. It's a free for all," he said. "If we can't make it happen, then I want to move up a division. Whoever wants it, let's go."

— Doug Fischer

Brandon Rios (right) won a firefight with Mike Alvarado after he landed a big shot in the seventh round. Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

BRANDON RIOS TKO 7
MIKE ALVARADO

DATE: OCT. 13, 2012
SITE: HOME DEPOT CENTER, CARSON, CALIF.
DIVISION: JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT
WEIGHTS: RIOS 140; ALVARADO 139¾
RING RATING (GOING INTO FIGHT): RIOS UNRATED; ALVARADO NO. 5
NETWORK: HBO

Mike Alvarado and Brandon Rios waged war for six-plus rounds in a matchup of undefeated brawlers everyone knew would be fun to watch. Someone had to crack, it seemed. That someone turned out to be Alvarado.

And it was one punch that turned the tide, an overhand right mid-way through the seventh round that rocked Alvarado. Rios, smelling blood, followed with several more big shots as a dazed Alvarado leaned against the ropes, prompting referee Pat Russell to end matters at 1:57.

Some will argue that the stoppage was premature but, without question, Alvarado was hurt badly when Russell waved his arms.

"I had him hurt," said Rios, who was fighting at 140 pounds for the first time. "It took me a while to get him out of there, but I have power and I brought it up to 140. And I can take it up to 147. I have power,it just takes a little longer."

The fight was everything the fans expected it to be, a whirlwind of nonstop action that saw both fighters give and take eye-catching punches from all angles. They combined to throw 1,320 punches in only half a fight, a remarkable sum.

However, Alvarado (33-1, 23 knockouts) appeared to be winning until he met his demise, at least in the eyes of many on press row. He seemed to outwork Rios (31-0-1, 22 KOs) for most of the fight and landed the more-obvious punches, taking advantage of Rios' suspect defense.

Alvarado, 32, landed slightly more punches (175 to 161) but threw many more (779 to 541). Yet the judges had it even – 57-57 on two cards, 58-56 for Rios on the third.

None of that mattered once Rios landed that big right, though. He hurt Alvarado badly with one shot and then proved again that he knows how to finish the job, landing at least three more punishing blows to score a spectacular knockout.

Alvarado, from Thornton, Colo., said he was surprised at the stoppage but didn't complain too passionately.

"He shook me up a little bit, but I thought that it was stopped a little too early," he said. "I could have kept going, and I would have gotten my head back into it and fought through it. I was surprised [about the stop-

page]. It was only a couple of shots."

Rios, from Oxnard, Calif., is proving to be a survivor. He stopped Miguel Acosta in a fight he was losing. He squeaked past Richard Abril in a fight many thought he lost. And he stopped Alvarado when things didn't appear to be going particularly well.

The bottom line is that he wins, usually in an entertaining manner, which can pay big dividends. Bob Arum, Rios' promoter, was already hyping up Rios against the winner of the Dec. 8 Manny Pacquiao-Juan Manuel Marquez bout.

He would certainly be a sizeable underdog against either, but one thing is for certain: Rios would make it exciting.

— Michael Rosenthal

RICKY BURNS TKO 4 KEVIN MITCHELL

DATE: SEPT. 22, 2012
SITE: SCOTTISH EXHIBITION & CONFERENCE CENTRE, GLASGOW, SCOTLAND
DIVISION: LIGHTWEIGHT
WEIGHTS: BURNS 135; MITCHELL 135
RING RATING (GOING INTO FIGHT): BURNS NO. 3; MITCHELL NO. 5
NETWORK: BOXNATION (UK)

▶ Moments before this photo was taken, Ricky Burns (left) had brutally knocked out Kevin Mitchell in the fourth round of their lightweight title fight Sept. 22 in Glasgow, Scotland, Burns' home country. Mitchell obviously doesn't hold a grudge.
Image: Scott Heavey-Getty Images

In the tradition of great sporting rivalries, Ricky Burns and Kevin Mitchell, champion and challenger, Scotsman and Englishman, collided.Just how potent is the Scotland vs. England cocktail? Well, take Mexico and Puerto Rico; add a different beer label and shake well – very well. The city of Glasgow was posing as a battle ground on fight night, and Burns proved himself the superior gladiator.

Burns (35-2, 10 KOs) popped Mitchell (33-2, 24 KOs) with a laser-precise left hook and the fight was essentially over before the fabric of the challenger's shorts met the canvas. Mitchell did find his feet but he was woozy when the champion bashed him to the floor with a series of right hand shots to register a second knockdown. Instinct forced the stricken warrior upright once more but referee Terry O'Connor halted the action at 2:59 of the fourth round.

"Mitchell was going into his shell when I was unloading," said the affable Scotsman."When I scored the first knockdown I was determined to get him out of there. I just can't wait to get home so I can watch it."

Burns has been underestimated throughout his championship reign, and nobody expected such a quick and clinical finish. Kevin Mitchell joins Roman Martinez, Michael Katsidis and Paulus Moses as yet another world-class opponent whom Burns has dispatched impressively.

"I couldn't find my timing, and I don't know why," said Mitchell, 27. "I didn't underestimate Ricky, he's a two-weight world champion."

Burns established the jab early but his demeanor always suggested that he wanted a fire fight. Sure enough, the action heated up in Round 3 when both fighters pounded their respective chests, inviting a toe-to-toe slug fest, while the 10,000-strong capacity crowd exploded into soccer-style chanting.

This was Burns' second successful defense of the WBO lightweight title, and the sky's the limit.He has been chasing the RING Magazine belt since his days as junior lightweight champion and, with this performance, made it abundantly clear that he's ready for any lightweight on the planet.

Burns' promoter, Frank Warren, was full of praise for the 29-year-old champion and predicted that he would unify titles.

"Ricky is the best fighter in Britain," Warren said excitedly. "Carl Froch looked good against Lucian Bute, but he's had losses. Ricky hasn't lost a fight in five years."

— Tom Gray

CARL FRAMPTON TKO 6 NO. 9 STEVE MOLITOR

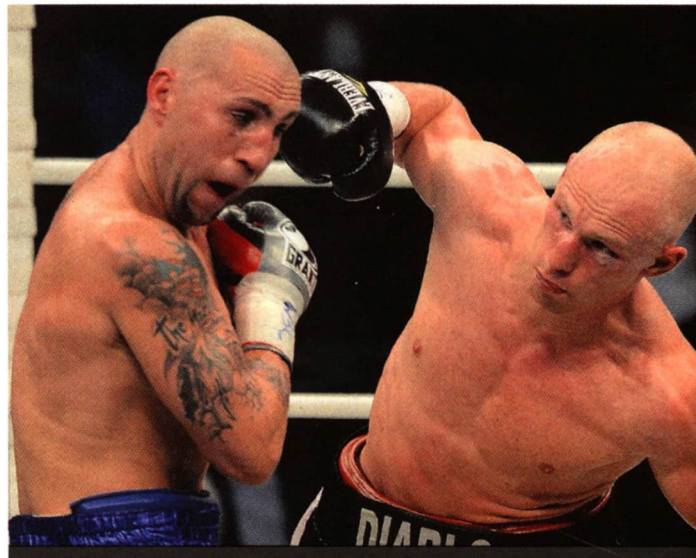
Rising Irish junior featherweight Carl Frampton notched his biggest win to date, a dominating sixth-round stoppage of Steve Molitor on Sept. 22 in Frampton's native Belfast.

Frampton (15-0, 10 KOs) overwhelmed the Canadian veteran, dropping him twice. Referee John Keane halted the bout after the second knockdown, at 2:21 of Round 6.

Frampton was simply too fast, too athletic and just too good for Molitor (34-3, 12 knockouts), whom he controlled from the onset.

The 25-year-old figured out quickly that Molitor couldn't match him and grew confident, walking in with his hands down. He dropped Molitor, 32, with a sneaky right hand in the fourth, then continued to relentlessly stalk his overmatched foe.

"The Jackal" floored Molitor again in the sixth, this time seemingly from the toll of punishment. Molitor made it to his feet but was a beaten fighter, and Keane stopped the bout.



▶ Krzysztof Wlodarczyk (right) handled Francisco Palacios more easily in their rematch than he did in their first fight. Image: **Janek Skarzynski-AFP-Getty Images**

NO. 6 JUAN CARLOS SANCHEZ KO 9 NO. 8 RODEL MAYOL

Juan Carlos Sanchez knocked out Rodel Mayol in the ninth round in a battle of Top 10 junior bantamweights on Sept. 22 in Los Mochis, Mexico. The time of the stoppage was 2:25.

Sanchez, the hometown fighter, and Mayol engaged in a back-and-forth contest through the first half of the bout, but Sanchez took over down the stretch. He stunned the Filipino in the eighth and finished matters in dramatic fashion in the ninth.

The taller Sanchez (15-1-1, 8 KOs) patiently boxed out of his southpaw stance, jabbing Mayol and setting him up for shots. The 21-year-old backed Mayol (31-6-2, 22 KOs) into a corner and then landed a booming straight left that put Mayol under the middle rope and out of the ring.

Mayol, 31, struggled to make it back into the ring but couldn't beat referee Allan Huggins' count, driving the Mexican crowd into a frenzy.

NO. 2 KRZYSZTOF WLODARCZYK UD 12
FRANCISCO PALACIOS

About a year ago, Krzysztof Wlodarczyk (47-2-1, 33 KOs) narrowly edged Francisco Palacios (21-2, 13 KOs) by a controversial split decision to retain his cruiserweight title. On Sept. 22 in Wroclaw, Poland, Wlodarczyk left no doubt, retaining his title by unanimous decision in front of his native fans.

The scores were 117-112, 116-112 and 116-113.

The fight was boring, though not as bad as the first encounter. Wlodarczyk, 31, outworked Palacios and routinely beat him to the punch. The rounds were close but clear for the Pole, who took the belt from Giacobbe Fragomeni in May 2010.

The best moment of the bout came in the 10th round, when Wlodarczyk buzzed the 35-year-old U.S.-born Puerto Rican with a left hook in the closing seconds, after which he cruised his way to the victory.

VIC DARCHINYAN UD 10 LUIS ORLANDO DEL VALLE

Vic Darchinayan kept his career alive, turning back Luis Orlando Del Valle over 10 one-sided rounds Sept. 29 in Mashantucket, Conn. The scores were 99-91, 96-94 and 99-91.

Darchinyan (38-5-1, 27 KOs) came into the bout on a two-fight losing streak and was expected by many pundits to lose to Del Valle, a top prospect. But Darchinyan, 36, used his veteran guile to outland and outmaneuver the 25-year-old native of Puerto Rico, handing him his first pro loss.

The Armenian dished out a lot of punishment, which HBO cameras confirmed with close-ups as the ringside doctor examined him after the fight. Del Valle (16-1, 11 KOs) landed a big left hook that rocked Darchinyan in the ninth, but the moment was fleeting.

NO. 9 EDWIN RODRIGUEZ TKO 8 JASON ESCALERA

Edwin Rodriguez made quick work of the lightly-regarded Escalera, stopping him 12 seconds into the eighth round on Sept. 29 in Mashantucket, Conn.

The Dominican jumped on Escalera (13-1-1, 12 KOs)

from the onset and never really let up. Escalera, of Union City, N.J., was game – offering resistance in spots – but he simply isn't in the same league as Rodriguez.

Rodriguez (22-0, 15 KOs) had Escalera out on his feet at the end of the seventh and continuedin the eighth, opening a gruesome cut on Escalera's right ear that gushed blood and forced referee Steve Smoger to stop the contest. Rodriguez landed 231 punches to just 95 from Escalera, illustrating how uncompetitive the fight was.

Rodriguez seems to be ready for a bigger fight next time out. Literally bigger. Rodriguez weighed 188 on fight night, 20 pounds above the super middleweight limit and said he would be open to competing at light heavyweight in the near future.

JORGE LINARES UD 12 HECTOR VELAZQUEZ

Jorge Linares got back in the win column after two consecutive knockout losses with a unanimous-decision victory over Mexican lightweight veteran Hector Velazquez on Oct. 6 in Sacramento.

The scores were 100-89, 99-91 and 97-91 for Linares, who is from Venezuela but lives in Tokyo.

Velazquez (52-18-3, 35 KOs), best known for his loss to Manny Pacquiao in 2005, sought to grind Linares down by applying constant pressure. But the superior talent and counterpunching of Linares was the difference as he boxed off his back foot.

Linares (32-3, 20 KOs) landed some crisp left hooks mixed with shots to the midsection and prospered down the stretch, avoiding Velazquez's bombs while sticking his jab.

Velazquez, 37, never quit trying, marking Linares' face up. Velasquez lost a point in the 10th round for hitting behind the head.

NO. 2 MOISES FUENTES TKO 5 IVAN CALDERON

Moises Fuentes stopped Ivan Calderon in the fifth round in the second defense of his WBO 105-pound title Oct. 6 in the challenger's native Puerto Rico.

Fuentes (16-1, 8 KOs) stalked the slick Calderon from the outset, ripping body shots in an effort to wear down the 37-year-old. Calderon (35-3-1, 6 KOs) timed his hard-charging foe with counters, utilizing his deft jab to set up his overhand left, but the Mexican walked through the shots.

The 5-foot Calderon made the 5-7½ Fuentes look silly at times, winning the first few rounds, but it was a matter of time until Fuentes' relentless pressure and superior size caught up to one of the best defensive fighters of this era.

Fuentes finally trapped Calderon in a corner in the last minute of Round 4 and broke him down with punishing shots.

In the opening moments of Round 5, Fuentes continued the attack and dropped Calderon with a flurry of body and head punches. A right cross to the midsection dropped Calderon to a knee for the second knockdown. Calderon got up again but was overwhelmed and took a knee once again seconds later. That prompted referee Luis Pabon to stop it at 1:22.

It was Calderon's third stoppage loss in four fights.

NO. 10 ADONIS STEVENSON TKO 12 DONOVAN GEORGE

Adonis Stevenson dropped a game Don George five times en route to a 12th-round stoppage Oct. 12 in Montreal.

Stevenson overwhelmed his beaten-up opponent in the final round, scoring the fourth and fifth knockdowns of the bout purely on accumulation of punches. After the fifth knockdown, referee Marlon B. Wright stopped the bout at 55 seconds.

George (23-3-1, 20 KOs) wasn't happy that the fight was stopped but he had clearly taken a great deal of punishment.

The fighters slugged it out from the opening bell but Stevenson proved to be both better and more powerful. The Quebec-based southpaw scored two knockdowns in the fifth round, both the products of vicious body shots.

In Round 6, Stevenson, 35, went right back to the body, dropping the Chicagoan with a shot to the midsection once again.

With the victory, Stevenson (19-1, 16 KOs) becomes the No. 1 contender for the Carl Froch's IBF title.

DAVID PRICE KO 1 AUDLEY HARRISON

No one expected much from Audley Harrison in his matchup with fast-rising heavyweight prospect David Price on Oct. 13 in Liverpool, England.

But 82 seconds? That's how long it took the towering (6-foot-8) Price to take out the former Olympic champion and retain his British title, further evidence of Price's impressive punching power and Harrison's inability to cope with a title-caliber opponent.

Price (14-0, 12 KOs) badly hurt Harrison (28-6, 21 KOs) with a hard right hand and then unloaded with both hands, putting his 40-year-old foe down and out for the count.

Next up for the 2008 Olympic bronze medalist should be a significant test. He seems to be ready.

ZAURBEK BAYSANGUROV UD 12 LUKAS KONECNY

Zaurbek Baysangurov outpointed Lukas Konecny over 12 competitive rounds in the second defense of his WBO 154-pound title Oct. 6 in Kiev, Ukraine. The scores were 119-109, 117-111 and 118-110.

FIGHT RESULTS

THROUGH OCTOBER 15, 2012

HEAVYWEIGHTS

JOVO PUDAR W 12 RAPHAEL LOVE
CHRISTIAN HAMMER KO 4 DANNY WILLIAMS
ALEXANDER POVETKIN KO 2 HASIM RAHMAN
KUBRAT PULEV KO 11 ALEXANDER USTINOV
LEIF LARSEN KO 5 JASON GAVERN
TOR HAMER KO 2 DOMINIQUE ALEXANDER
DAVID PRICE KO 1 AUDLEY HARRISON

CRUISERWEIGHTS

KRZYSZTOF WLODARCZYK W 12 FRANCISCO PALACIOS
DANIE VENTER KO 4 ZACK MWEKASSA
THABISO MCHUNU KO 1 FLO SIMBA
ISMAIL ABDOUL W 12 CHRISTOPHE DETTINGER
MANOEL RODRIGUES DE SOUZA KO 3 FERNANDO DE OLIVEIRA
HIZNI ALTUNKAYA KO 4 ATTILA PALKO
BJ FLORES KO 2 DAVID MCNEMAR
NURI SEFERI KO 1 NENAD STANKOVIC
RAKHIM CHAKHKIEV KO 9 EPIFANIO MENDOZA
JON LEWIS DICKINSON W 12 SHANE MCPHILBIN

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

SERGEY KOVALEV KO 3 LIONELL THOMPSON
ROBERTO BOLONTI KO 8 JOSE CLAVERO
RYNO LIEBENBERG KO 9 JOHNNY MULLER
RYAN COYNE KO 1 PETER VECSEI
BLAKE CAPARELLO W 10 AARON PRYOR JR.
ELEIDER ALVAREZ KO 2 DANIEL REGI
PAWEL GLAZEWSKI W 10 SOFIANE SEBIHI

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

GEARD AJETOVIC KO 4 CHRIS MAFUTA
GIOVANNI DE CAROLIS W 12 ROMAN SHKARUPA
EDWIN RODRIGUEZ KO 8 JASON ESCALERA
SERGE YANNICK W 10 NADER HAMDAN
YUZO KIYOTA KO 6 HIROMITSU MIURA
ROCKY FIELDING KO 5 CARL DILKS
ADONIS STEVENSON KO 12 DON GEORGE
JAMES DEGALE W 12 HADILLAH MOHOUMADI

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

DEMETRIUS ANDRADE KO 2 ALEXIS HLOROS
PATRICK NIELSEN W 12 JOSE YEBES
DARRYL CUNNINGHAM W 10 RAYNARD DARDEN
PATRICK MAJEWSKI W 10 LATIF MUNDY
SANOSUKE SASAKI KO 4 TADASHI YUBA
DAVID LEMIEUX KO 1 ALVARO GAONA
MAKOTO FUCHIGAMI KO 6 MARLON ALTA
JERMAIN TAYLOR KO 2 RAUL MUNOZ
(F) TERESA PEROZZI D 10 TORI NELSON

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

JACKSON BONSU W 12 JIMMY COLAS
MARK MELLIGEN KO 2 SAPAPETCH SOR SAKAORAT
GABRIEL ROSADO KO 10 CHARLES WHITTAKER
JACK CULCAY KO 5 MARK THOMPSON
BRIAN ROSE KO 3 VIVIAN HARRIS
ZAURBEK BAYSANGUROV W 12 LUKAS KONECNY
AKIO SHIBATA W 10 YOSHIHISA TONIMURA

WELTERWEIGHTS

SHUHEI TSUCHIYA W 10 STEVIE FERDINANDUS
ANTWONE SMITH W 10 RONALD CRUZ
DIEGO CHAVES KO 2 JOSE MIRANDA
(F) CECILIA BRAEKHUS W 10 ANNE SOPHIE MATHIS
ASLANBEK KOZAEV W 12 SASHA YENGOYAN
DENNIS LAURENTE KO 1 JAMED JALARANTE
JULIO DIAZ KO 5 HECTOR SANCHEZ
ANTONIN DECARIE KO 6 ALEX PEREZ
YOSHIHIRO KAMEGAI D 10 JORGE SILVA
CHARLIE OTA KO 4 JONEL GADAPAN
BETHEL USHONA W 10 PASCAL BRUNO
MATTHEW HATTON KO 1 MICHAEL LOMAX
JOSE BENAVIDEZ W 8 PAVEL MIRANDA

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

PAUL MCCLOSKEY W 12 MANUEL PEREZ
VICTOR CAYO KO 1 PEDRO MIRANDA
FRANKLIN MAMANI KO 5 MIGUEL CACERES
(F) KLARA SVENSSON W 10 FLOAREA LIHET
ANTONIO LOZADA JR. KO 4 DANIEL VALENZUELA
CHAD BENNETT KO 4 JAMES ARMAH
SERGEI FEDCHENKO KO 5 NUGZAR MARGVELASHVILI
(F) MARIE RIEDERER W 10 ANGEL MCKENZIE
AL SABAUPAN KO 3 ROSELITO CAMPANA
LENNY DAWS W 12 VILLE PIISPANEN
ADIL ANWAR W 12 DALE MILES
BRANDON RIOS KO 7 MIKE ALVARADO

LIGHTWEIGHTS

EDUARD TROYANOVSKY KO 7 JOSEPH VON MINOZA
(F) DELFINE PERSOON KO 7 ERIN MCGOWAN
FAHSAI SAKKREERIN TD 6 EDGAR GABEJAN
MARTIN GETHIN KO 11 CARL JOHANNESON

RICKY BURNS KO 4 KEVIN MITCHELL
JOSE GONZALEZ KO 1 OSCAR CUERO
JORGE LINARES W 10 HECTOR VELAZQUEZ
DANNIE WILLIAMS KO 7 RYNELL GRIFFIN
JOSE PEDRAZA KO 8 TEVIN FARMER
DORIN SPIVEY W 10 ROD SALKA

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

SIPHO TALIWE W 12 MZONKE FANA
TERRY FLANNIGAN W 10 TROY JAMES
JOHN SIMPSON KO 2 DAI DAVIES
(F) CLAUDIA ANDREA LOPEZ W 10 MARIA ELENA MADERNA
TERDSAK KOKIETGYM W 12 RIVO RENGKUNG
DANTE JARDON W 12 MIGUEL ROMAN
BERNABE CONCEPCION KO 2 RICHARD OLISA

FEATHERWEIGHTS

JORGE ARCE W 10 MAURICIO MARTINEZ
HIROSHIGE OSAWA D 12 NORIYUKI UENO
ROBINSON CASTELLANOS KO 6 OMAR ESTRELLA
SATOSHI HOSONO KO 7 RIKIYA FUKUHARA
MAURICIO MUNOZ W 12 LUIS FRANCO
FABIAN OROZCO KO 7 GASTON BUSTAMANTE
JUN DOLIGUEZ KO 5 CISO MORALES

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

POONSAWAT KRATINGDAENGGYM W 12 DANILO PENA
ALEXANDER BAKHTIN W 12 ROLI GASCA
DIANEVER ORCALES KO 4 MARANGIN MARBUN
JHONATAN ROMERO W 12 EFRAIN ESQUIVIAS
ROMAN MORALES W 8 JONATHAN ARRELLANO
CARL FRAMPTON KO 6 STEVE MOLITOR
SEBASTIEN GAUTHIER KO 1 DAVID KANALAS
DRIAN FRANCISCO KO 1 JOSE CARLOS VARGAS
VIC DARCHINYAN W 10 LUIS DEL VALLE
JEREMY PARODI W 12 WILLIAM PRADO
(F) YESICA MARCOS KO 6 DAYANA CORDERO
WILFREDO VAZQUEZ JR. KO 7 JONATHAN OQUENDO
(F) KALIESHA WEST W 10 CHRISTINA RUIZ
NONITO DONAIRE KO 9 TOSHIAKI NISHIOKA

BANTAMWEIGHTS

TABTIMDAENG NA RACHAWAT KO 3 RODEL QUILATON
JULIO CEJA W 10 GENARO GARCIA
ROLLY MATSUSHITA KO 9 RYUICHI FUNAI
ALBERT PAGARA W 10 MARVIN TAMPUS
SURIYAN SOR RUNGVISAI KO 4 RICKY MANUFOE
(F) JANETH PEREZ W 10 TENKAI TSUNAMI
GABUTAN D SINGWANCHA KO 2 LANDE OLIN
JETRO PABUSTAN KO 7 RICKY SABIA

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

JERWIN ANCAJAS KO 10 MIGUEL TAMAYO
JUAN MONTES W 12 OSCAR IBARRA
JUAN CARLOS SANCHEZ JR. KO 9 RODEL MAYOL
ARTHUR VILLANUEVA W 8 PRAMUANSAK POSUWAN
MARCO DEMECILLO KO 4 MARJUN TABAMO
MCJOE ARROYO KO 4 JOSE LOPEZ
DAVID SANCHEZ KO 5 OMAR ROSALES
PETCHBARNGBORN KOKIETGYM KO 2 KID SURYANA

FLYWEIGHTS

FROILAN SALUDAR W 12 JOSE TIRADO
JOSEPH RIOS W 8 MIGUEL DIAZ
(F) IRMA SANCHEZ W 10 CARINA MORENO
MILAN MELINDO W 12 JEAN PIERO PEREZ
ROCKY FUENTES W 12 MYUNG HO LEE
MCWILLIAMS ARROYO KO 5 RONALD RAMOS
JULIAN RIVERA W 12 EDGAR JIMENEZ
ARDIN DIALE KO 6 RYAN BITO
PONGSAKLEK WONJONGKAM KO 1 CHARLIE CABILLA
CARLOS RUIZ W 12 CARLOS FARIAS
CARLOS CUADRAS KO 7 RONALD BARRERA
SUGURU MURANAKA KO 7 GANBARE SHOTA
(F) AVA KNIGHT W 10 MARIANA JUAREZ
KEVIN SATCHELL KO 6 CHRIS EDWARDS

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

MASAYUKI KURODA D 10 TOSHIMASA OUCHI
(F) YESICA YOLANDA BOPP KO 7 MARISOL MIRANDA
IVAN SORIANO W 10 MICHAEL LANDERO
OSWALDO NOVOA W 12 JOSE ZUNIGA
ADRIAN HERNANDEZ KO 6 KOMPAYAK PORPRAMOOK
ROMAN GONZALEZ KO 3 STIVEN MONTERROSA
VERGILIO SILVANO KO 8 LESTER JUN PRONCO
ODILON ZALETA KO 12 ARMANDO TORRES

STRAWWEIGHTS

HEKKIE BUDLER W 12 FLORANTE CONDES
WANHENG MENAYOTHIN KO 8 JERSON LUZARITO
DENVER CUELLO W 10 IVAN MENESES
RYUJI HARA W 10 KENICHI HORIKAWA
JESUS SILVESTRE KO 4 TAKUYA MITAMURA
CARLOS BUITRAGO TD 5 JOSE AGUILAR
MOISES FUENTES KO 5 IVAN CALDERON
HANDIG M SINGWANCHA W 12 KATSUNARI TAKAYAMA

Judge Julie Lederman is one of many women who play an important role in boxing today. Image: **Emily Harney**

BUSY AT RINGSIDE

By **Ryan Songalia**

The scene at ringside was very different when Carol Polis became the first American female professional boxing judge in 1973.

"The only other women I ever saw in boxing at the time were the ring card girls," said Polis, who has worked fights involving the likes of Mike Tyson and Larry Holmes, as well as 27 title bouts around the world.

And it almost didn't happen. Polis admits she stumbled into boxing by a fluke. Her husband, Bob Polis, a referee and judge for the Pennsylvania State Athletic Commission, challenged her to score bouts unofficially to enhance her interest in the sport. He was so impressed by the results that he shared her scores with the commissioner, who then recommended she take up training to become an official.

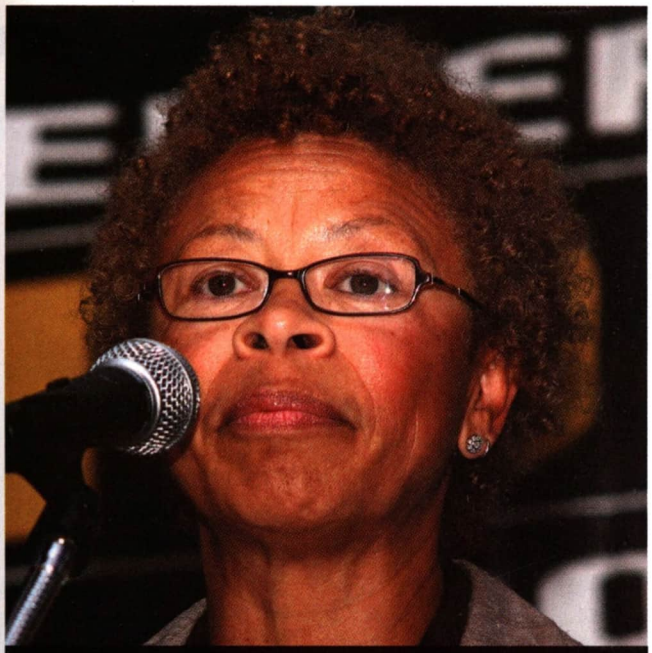
Still, she endured snide comments from some in the male-dominated community, which has faded over time as other women judges and referees have followed Polis into boxing.

"From the very beginning, in a couple of newspaper articles, some of the old-time fight promoters said things like, 'She should be in the kitchen baking,'" said Polis, who recently published a book on her experiences as a judge titled The Lady is a Champ. "And my answer to that was, 'I use the kitchen as a breezeway to get out of the house.'"

Eva Shain soon followed and became the first woman to judge a heavyweight title fight when she turned in her 9-6 card for Muhammad Ali over Earnie Shavers in 1977. Carol Castellano also began around that time and now has Oscar De La Hoya, Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Sugar Ray Leonard fights on her resume.

Melvina Lathan, of New York, became a judge and then a state boxing commissioner. Another New Yorker, Eugenia Williams, was criticized for her scoring in the first Lennox Lewis-Evander Holyfield fight (awarding the fight to Holyfield) but has largely redeemed herself in recent years.

By the '80s, female referees were



Melvina Lathan was a judge and then a commissioner in New York. Image: **Jim Everett**

also gaining acceptance. Gwen Adair, a former actress, rose to prominence refereeing fights in California, following in the footsteps of Belle Martel, who had officiated a few fights in the Golden State in the '40s. Adair continues to work as a judge.

Polis is also still active as a judge, though she hasn't scored a fight in over a year because most of the calls the Pennsylvania commission gets these days are for mixed martial arts, a sport she detests. But others carry on, including Lisa Giampa of Nevada and Julie Lederman of New York, both of whom routinely get assigned to judge major fights.

Lederman, who is the daughter of judge/TV commentator Harold Lederman, says the stigma of female officials has passed as they became more commonplace. Lederman says the highlight of her career came in August of '99, when she and her father judged an entire card together at the Ohio State Fairgrounds.

Lederman works many of the major events, as well as women's fights, and says the latter may actually be harder.

"The rounds are only two minutes. That's not a lot of time. It can be more difficult than judging a men's bout," Lederman said.

One of the more prominent female officials is New York's Sparkle Lee, a former police officer who became the state's first female referee in 2001. It was a moment three years earlier, however, that she says sticks out in her mind the most: when she became the first female to ref a New York Daily News Golden Gloves bout.

"For me, it meant not giving up on my dream even when people said I couldn't do it because I was a woman," said Lee, who has recently worked Alicia Ashley, Naomi Togashi and Melissa McMorrow title fights.

She works a fair amount of bouts involving men as well, but doesn't bring a different set of rules based on gender. Just as her training, focus and authority command respect from the combatants, Lee returns it.

"A fighter is a fighter," said Lee. "When I ref a female bout, I tell them that I will ref their fight the same as the guys. The name of the game is boxing and that means you will get hit."

Same rules for everyone. ■

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"Boxers must be part of the equation."
— BOC Member José Chegüi Torres

DO WE NEED A FOURTH FIGHT?

By **Don Stradley**

WHY WE DO ...

1. Maybe this time we'll get a decisive winner: After three close calls, it would be nice to see either Manny Pacquiao or Juan Manuel Marquez win without any controversy when they meet on Dec. 8 in Las Vegas. And with both fighters nearing the end of the line, maybe they'll give us a command performance, letting loose all of their aggression, trying to win this thing once and "four" all.

2. Marquez deserves it: He's been one of the best all-around performers of the past decade, and is probably at the height of his popularity right now. A fourth bout with Pacquiao makes much more sense for him financially than, say, a bout with Devon Alexander or Zab Judah.

3. Pacquiao deserves it: Marquez has been a monkey on Pacquiao's back for years. Pacquiao would love a chance to end the debate.

4. It will be a money maker: The first three bouts were smash hits, and now that Pacquiao and Marquez are so much better known than a decade ago, this fourth bout might be the biggest of all. And if it is good for Las Vegas, it is good for boxing.

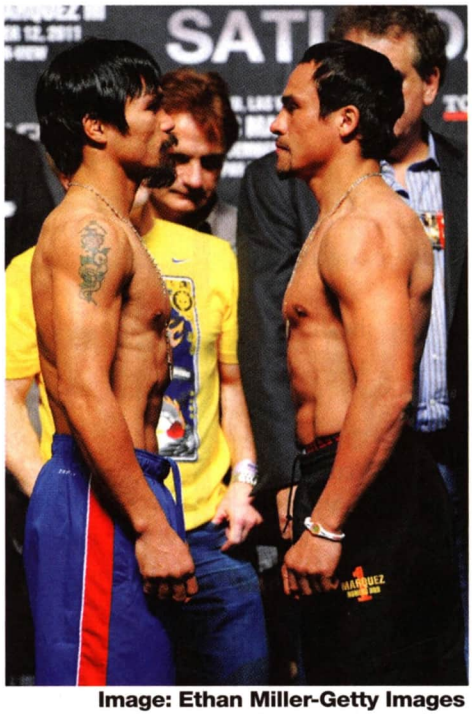


Image: Ethan Miller-Getty Images

... WHY WE DON'T

1. It will probably be another close fight: The thought of another contentious result makes us want to scream, "Enough already!"

2. The third bout was a bit disappointing: Didn't it seem as if both fighters were afraid to make a mistake? In the first two bouts, Marquez was dropped, Pacquiao was cut and both were banged around and staggered. The third bout played out as if they were trying to avoid such drama. Pacquiao has also changed a lot in recent years, now imagining himself a fancy boxer rather than the destroyer he used to be. We shouldn't expect this one to be a candidate for fight of the year.

3. Pacquiao should be fighting Timothy Bradley: What sort of universe has this become where a fighter of legendary status gets screwed out of his title on a ridiculous set of scorecards and then doesn't get an immediate rematch to set things straight?

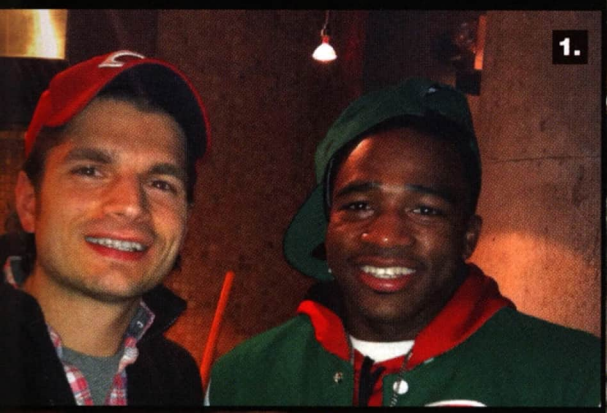
4. It is just another delay of the fight we still want to see (sort of): Since the earliest discussions of a Pacquiao-Floyd Mayweather Jr. bout, we have seen Pacquiao fight Marquez twice. Again, what sort of universe is this?

ALSO

December is shaping up to be a lively month. Other fights set at press time include Miguel Cotto challenging Austin Trout on Dec. 1 for the WBA junior middleweight title, Koki Kameda defending the WBA bantamweight belt against Hugo Ruiz on Dec. 4, and Mikkel Kessler attempting to win the WBA super middleweight title against Brian Magee on Dec. 8.

On Dec. 15, Arthur Abraham defends the WBO 168-pound title against Mehdi Bouadla, while Amir Khan battles Carlos Molina. Timothy Bradley was set to defend his WBO welterweight belt that same day in Miami. Bradley's opponent was unnamed as we went to press. Ricky Burns was also doing business on the 15th, defending the WBO lightweight title against the always dangerous TBA. ■

The RING AT THE FIGHTS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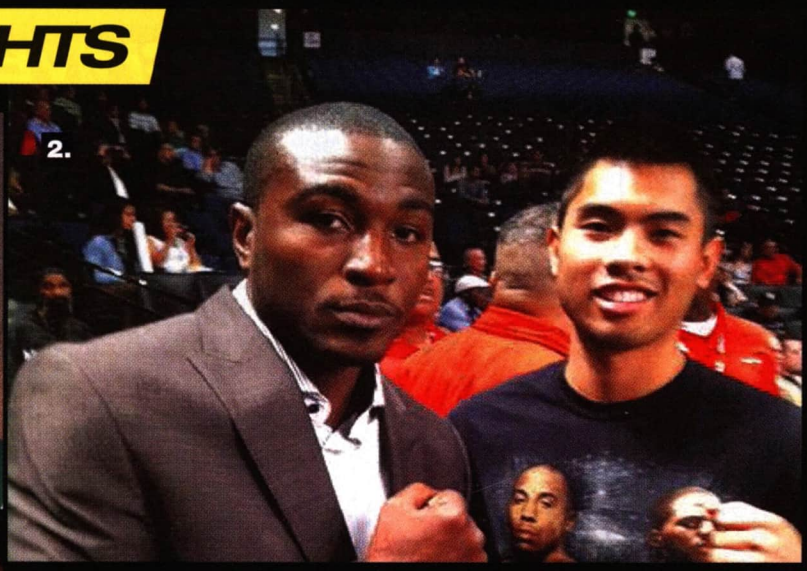
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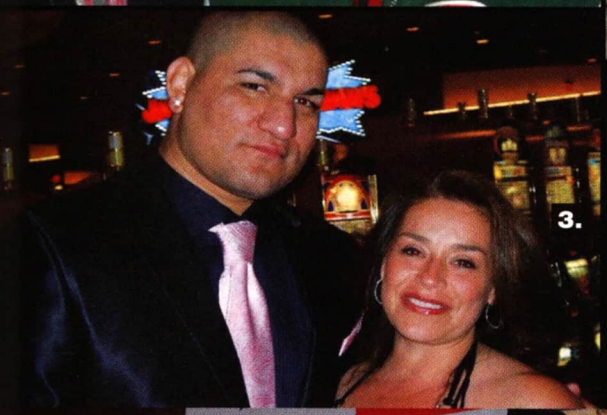
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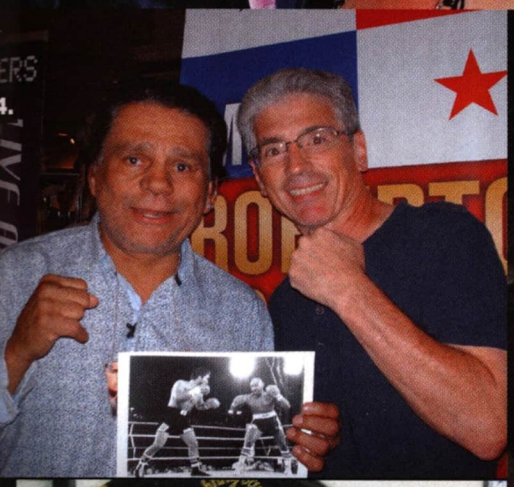
1. Dino Lucarelli II (left) with Adrien Broner after Broner's KO of Eloy Perez in February in St. Louis. **2.** Tim Manalo (right) with Tavoris Cloud at the Andre Ward-Chad Dawson fight in September in Oakland, Calif. **3.** Lisa Phillips with Chris Arreola during Floyd Mayweather Jr.-Shane Mosley weekend in 2010 in Las Vegas. **4.** Mark McCloud (right) with Roberto Duran before the Sergio Martinez-Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. fight in September in Las Vegas. **5.** George Foreman made two new friends – Diego (left) and Gabriela Rodriguez – at the Heavyweight Boxing Symposium at University of Kansas in 2010. **6.** Robert Cassese Sr. (left) and Robert Jr. flank Sergio Martinez at the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 2011. **7.** Leroy Chavez (right) with Austin Trout at the Team Tapia Gym in Albuquerque, N.M.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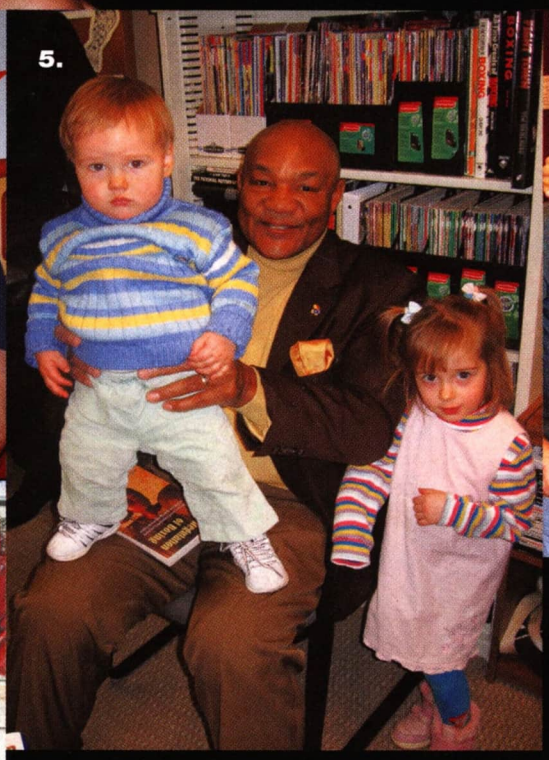
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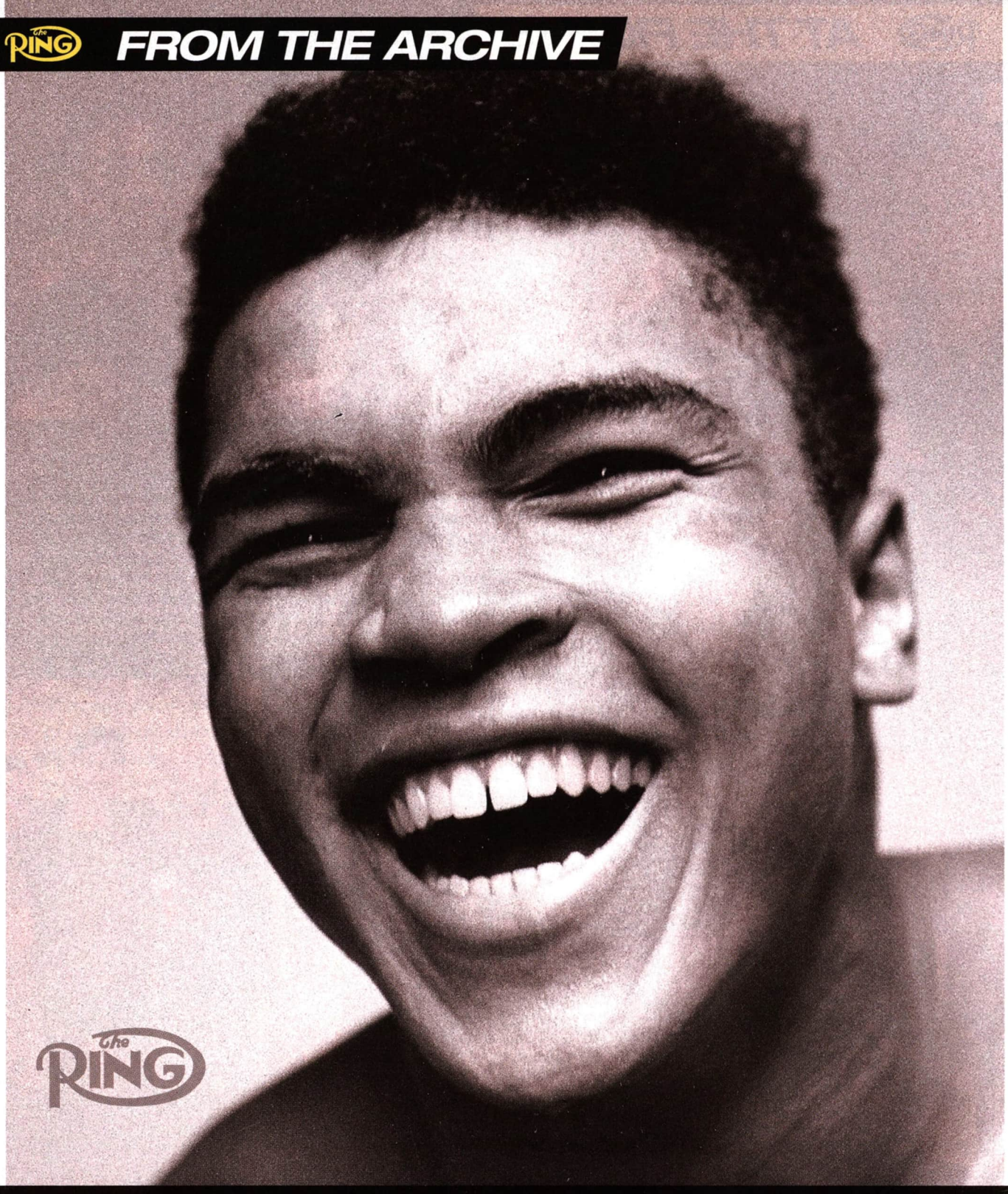
Send us your photos from a fight with you posing next to a celebrity, athlete, or other famous person and we will consider it for publication in the magazine. Send photos to **celebrityphotos@sepublications.com.** Make sure to include your name(s), celebrity name(s), the fight attended, and your contact information. See you at the fights!

FROM THE ARCHIVE



ALL SMILES: This photo was taken after Cassius Clay stopped Archie Moore in November of 1962. Fifteen months later, he would do the same to Sonny Liston to win the heavyweight championship.

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